

Hafa Adai!

Saipan's Michael Johnson awarded graduate degree fellowship. **PAGE 3**

Vet: Big things happening in CNMI with animal services. **PAGE 5**

\$1

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AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Family members, friends, and supporters gather to celebrate and recognize Autism Awareness Month, with Lt Gov. David M. Apatang, in his capacity as acting governor, signing the proclamation yesterday at the Saipan World Resort ballroom in Susupe. **CHRISTAL MARINO**

Deleon Guerrero out of BMV

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Deleon Guerrero

The former director of the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Juana Deleon Guerrero, is no longer employed with the department, it was learned yesterday.

During a status conference in the ongoing license fraud case against Deleon Guerrero yesterday, the former BMV

chief informed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona

See BMV on Page 4

'We need to develop the military tourism market'

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
179

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stands firm in his plans to pivot away from the China tourism market amidst ongoing geopolitical tensions and developing military tourism in its place.

In an interview with Palacios last week, he confirmed

See MILITARY on Page 4



AIRLINE TALKS

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang met Friday with Jeju Airlines' CEO E-Bae Kim and other leadership representatives from the airline. Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Gloria Cavanagh also participated in the meeting. The discussion focused on expanding Jeju's passenger service between Seoul and the CNMI. The conversation also included a dialogue on other destinations that Jeju serves. Jeju Air is the largest low-cost airline in South Korea. It currently has daily flights between Saipan and Seoul and will expand this service in April to include two daily flights beginning April 12.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Magofna's back-to-back trips defended



DeLeon Guerrero



Magofna

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Citing the need for the CNMI to network with major casino/gaming industry players, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) defended yesterday Senate floor leader Corina L. Magofna's off-

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

A new thrift shop owned by former travel agents has sprouted in Koblerville.

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NATION

Former President Donald Trump faces the most urgent legal challenge of his life this week.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

The role playing movie "Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" opens with \$38.5 million.

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Local

Rios: I intend to move forward

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Department of Commerce secretary Joseph Santos Rios Jr. said yesterday that he is still wants to face the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee for his confirmation hearing.

"I am still here, so my intentions are moving forward," said Rios in a text message in response to *Saipan Tribune's* questions.

He said "if" he did resign it's because for something that did not sit well with him, and "if" he did later reconsider or rescind his resignation, then it's because there "may" have been a compromising solution or alternative.

"Whichever the case may be, I am still here," said the acting Commerce secretary. He did not elaborate.

Senate EAGI Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said last night that they have not scheduled the confirmation hearing for Rios and for other nominees.

"We are prioritizing the budget at this time," said Babauta, referring to a legislation to revise the fiscal year 2023 budget upon the request of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

The EAGI committee's confirmation hearing for Rios' appointment did not push through last March 28, after Oscar M. Babauta, who

is the special assistant for the Palacios-Atang administration, told the committee that Rios had asked to postpone the hearing as he is taking care of a pressing personal matter.

Sources said Rios resigned as acting Commerce secretary just before his confirmation hearing, but then rescinded his resignation on or about the day of the hearing.

Sources said Rios informed his staff during a meeting last March 23 that he had submitted his resignation letter to Palacios and that his last day in office would be March 31. However, sources said, Rios met his staff again on March 29 and told them he is not resigning after all.



Rios Jr.

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Saipan’s Michael Johnson awarded East-West Center graduate degree fellowship

Saipan native Michael Johnson has been selected as a graduate degree fellow at the East-West Center for fall 2023.

Johnson, a graduate of Hawai’i Pacific University, will pursue a Juris Doctorate at the University of Hawai’i William S. Richardson School of Law while participating in the fellowship program. Johnson is also a graduate of the CNMI Judiciary’s 2022 Pre-law Summer Program.

The highly competitive fellowship program receives thousands of applications from around the world each year. With an acceptance rate of only 5-10%, Johnson’s selection as a fellow highlights his exceptional academic achievements, leadership potential, and commitment to the center’s mission of promoting better relations and understanding among the people and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States.

As a fellow, Johnson will engage in research and study programs, leadership training and development programs, and network with other fellows and professionals from around the world. “It is an honor and a privilege to be selected for this program,” said Johnson. “I look forward to the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the Asia-Pacific region and to contribute to the center’s mission of fostering better relations and cooperation among peoples.”

This opportunity will be Johnson’s first year attending law school, and he is excited about the prospect of learning more about the field of law and the region he calls home.

The East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship provides master’s and doctoral funding for graduate students from Asia, the Pacific, and the United States to participate in educational, cultural, res-



File photo shows Michael Johnson posing with his parents after finishing the CNMI Judiciary’s 2022 Pre-Law Summer Program.

idential community building, and leadership development programs at the East-West Center while pursuing graduate study at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.

Through team-building activities, leadership development projects and internships, learning about the Asia Pacific region, cultural exchange, educational enrichment gatherings, community service, and service learning projects, EWC graduate degree fellows establish friendships and lifelong ties to a network of people committed to positive change in the Asia Pacific region.

The fellowship covers the cost of tuition and fees for UHM graduate programs, books, housing, and funding toward meals, health insurance, and incidental expenses. Funding for field study

and conference presentations is offered during the fellow’s period of study. The fellowship lasts for two years.

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 as a national educational institution, the center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. The center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

Johnson’s acceptance into the East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship represents a prestigious honor and a significant opportunity for his future academic and professional endeavors. (PR)

\$100K bail for man accused of drug trafficking on Tinian

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on a man accused of selling methamphetamine, or “ice,” on Tinian.

Francisco San Nicolas Shai, also known as Tick, was arrested by the Tinian Department of Public Safety for allegedly selling methamphetamine to an informer on two occasions.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a \$100,000 cash bail

on Shai following a hearing last week.

Shai was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody after the hearing as he failed to post bail.

The defendant was ordered to return to court on April 5 at 10am for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for April 10.

Shai, 44, is facing charges of possession of a controlled substance, trafficking, and conspiracy.

According to the complaint

against Shai, police allegedly learned from an informer that the defendant was selling meth in the amount of \$50, \$100, and above.

In the first controlled buy, the informer allegedly bought \$100 worth of “ice” from Shai. In the second controlled buy, the informer allegedly bought \$50 worth of “ice” from him. On both occasions, the crystalline substance procured from the controlled buys tested positive for methamphetamine, police said.



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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

03/28/2023

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after April 14, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

| Project/Activity Type | Purpose | Location | Total Project Cost |
|---|--|--|--------------------|
| Construction of Lotus Homes, LLC. Multi Family/Apartment Project (GAP FILLER) | The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the continuing need for affordable rental housing for our low-income families and especially for those who have been affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. | Gualo Rai, Saipan Lot No. TR.22642 NEW-2 | \$8,000,000.00 |

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **April 14, 2023, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

Ogo, three others sentenced on assault charges

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former sister-in-law of former governor Ralph DLG Torres has pleaded guilty to one count of assault and battery for an altercation turned physical last August 2022.

Last week, Rowina Ogo, as well as Sheldon U. Remoket, Ryan Norita Rivera, and Augustino Mustafa pleaded guilty to one count assault and battery before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

For Ogo, Govendo sentenced the defendant to one-year imprisonment, but all suspended. She was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and a court cost of \$25 before the expiration of her one-year probation. She will pay a probation fee in the amount of \$120.

Govendo also ordered Ogo to pay \$262.55 in restitution to the victim, Maryann Borja, for her medical expenses.

The defendant was also ordered to perform 250 hours of community work service at a rate of no less than 20 hours per month.

The defendant shall not be allowed to convert the hours to an additional fine; nor have any direct or indirect contact with Borja; the defendant shall write an apology letter to Borja within seven days from the sentencing hearing and submit it to the Office of Adult Probation, Govendo added.

In addition, Ogo was ordered to participate in and complete any other counselling or course of treatment like anger management as deemed necessary by the OAP or the Community Guidance Center.

Govendo also sentenced Remoket to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for 108 days. The defendant was also given credit for the 108 days he had already served.

In addition, he was immediately

placed on three years' probation, and was ordered to pay \$40 court costs, and a \$420 probation fee.

Remoket was also ordered not to have any contact with victim Cheryl Palacios Ayuyu.

As for Rivera, he was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, but all suspended.

The court ordered the defendant to pay a fine of \$250 and court cost of \$25 before the expiration of his probation period. His one-year supervised probation period began on March 23. He will also pay a probation fee of \$120.

Rivera was ordered to have any contact with Richard Healer.

Lastly, Mustafa was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except 60 days to be served day-for-day, without parole, work release, home detention or other form of early release. However, he was also given credit for time already served.

GCC inducts new Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members

The Guam Community College Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society inducted 11 new members into their Beta Beta Xi Chapter last Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Holiday Resort Guam.

The Beta Beta Xi Chapter officers for annual year 2022-2023 are president Kevin Jung, vice president Amor-

lynn Mesa, secretary Katrina Lin Lupera and treasurer Irish Joy Elca with advisers Pilar Pangelinan, Carl Torres II, Eric Chong and Dr. Juanita Tenorio.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society strives to recognize and encourage academic achievement amongst two-year college students and pro-

vides opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service.

Headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, PTK is the largest honor society, accompanying over 2.5 million members and 1,275 chapters worldwide. (GCC)



Top row, from left, Stephon Evans, Emmanuel Cartas, Daniel Iriarte, Nonilon Santos, and Mark Tyquiengco. Center row, from left, Lois Bisnar, Zamantha Santos, Hannah Datugan, Cami Springer, Elyssa Cuevas, and Claire Bedia. Front row, from left, president Kevin Jung, secretary Katrina Lin Lupera, treasurer Irish Joy Elca, and vice president Amorlynn Mesa. gcc

SIS hosts college night for public

Saipan International School will be hosting a College Night on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 on its campus in As Lito. Students in grades 8-11 are invited to attend.

The main focus of the evening will be the university application

process and how to best develop applications to match the student to the most appropriate university. Also on the agenda will be choosing high school pathways to meet individual goals, the programs SIS offers to assist its students in the

process, finding financial aid opportunities, and the pros and cons of choosing a university outside of the United States.

The evening will begin promptly at 5:30pm in Room 100 in the Tan Siu Lin Building (high school). Students and families from schools other than SIS are welcome to attend. (PR)

BMV

From Page 1

that she is no longer employed with the department. It was earlier reported that she had just been placed on an indefinite administrative leave.

The disclosure came after the court addressed whether or not DeLeon Guerrero qualifies for a court-appointed counsel—a lawyer paid for by the court.

“Court addressed whether defendant qualifies for court-appointed counsel. Defendant reported to the court that the defendant is no longer employed at Department of Public Safety and is unable to afford retained counsel,” states the status conference minutes.

In response, the court encouraged DeLeon Guerrero to hire a personal lawyer while providing the court with an updated financial record. De-

leon Guerrero was ordered to update her financial affidavit with the assistance of the U.S. Probation Office.

Manglona has set a status conference on April 19, at 1pm to discuss DeLeon Guerrero's updated financial record and to further discuss the former director's representation in the court proceedings.

During her initial appearance and arraignment last March, DeLeon Guerrero, through attorney Robert Torres, pleaded not guilty to one count of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce an identification document.

During the hearing, DeLeon Guerrero was questioned about her eligibility for a court-appointed counsel and she was found non-indigent. Non-indigent means the defendant is financially capable of hiring her own lawyer.

According to DPS, DeLeon Guerrero has since been placed on indefinite administrative leave following the is-

suance of the indictment against her.

Back in March, assistant U.S. attorney Albert Flores Jr. filed the indictment against DeLeon Guerrero in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on a charge of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce an identification document.

According to the indictment, DeLeon Guerrero conspired with Li Yongde, also known as Ivan, from about Sept. 1, 2021, through about Oct. 31, 2022, to unlawfully produce a CNMI driver's license.

The indictment comes after the recent raid the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted on the bureau.

Back in December 2022, FBI agents raided BMV and the CNMI Department of Public Safety's central office. FBI agents showed up unannounced at BMV and DPS central office in Susupe last Dec. 17, 2022, to carry out a search warrant issued for both offices.

Mustafa was remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections and will be released on April 7.

He was ordered to pay a fine of \$150 and a court cost of \$25 before the expiration of the probation period.

He will be placed on supervised probation for one year beginning on April 7.

He will also pay a probation fee in the amount of \$120 and perform 50 hours of community work service.

MILITARY

From Page 1

that his administration has begun developing military tourism and now is a better time than ever, given the recent relocation of over 5,000 military personnel from Japan to Guam.

“This is just the start. We’ve been talking with Joint Region Marianas, the Department of Defense, and we’ve had discussions on ways to start capitalizing on [a military tourism] market and start trying to develop that market. Guam now has a really active military market and, with the transfer of the Japan base to Guam, you’re talking of close to 10,000 to 50,000 people. That’s an opportunity for us to take a look into that market. Rota is very close by. Now let’s work on making our islands a getaway for these personnel [in] Guam. We have to start helping ourselves to that market and start developing that market,” he said.

If the CNMI succeeds in developing military tourism, Palacios said the administration may be open to incentivizing flights from Guam to Saipan.

“We need to develop that market for [our airline partners] before we can incentivize them to give us a better deal. So we need to help show that we are

helping create that market,” he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Daniel Aquino, who is the governor's special assistant for military affairs, said the administration has already kicked into gear its plans to tap into military spending in the CNMI through tourism.

“The military is always interested in exploring, diving, golfing, anything leisurely and recreational for families. That’s what they’re looking at. We’re trying to get them to visit here from Guam. We’re currently actively pursuing this,” said Aquino.

Aquino said the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs has already started establishing partnerships in preparation for this new industry.

“For the governor and lieutenant governor’s part, we’re moving toward the direction of military [tourism] as we pivot away from our China market. We’re trying to encourage [Joint Region Marianas] to conduct more military training exercises here,” he said.

“As we move forward, we’ve partnered with the Marianas Visitors Authority to create staycation packages [for military personnel]. It’s currently in the preliminary stages. We’re also working with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on this,” Aquino added.

MAGOFNA

From Page 1

island trip to attend an Indian gaming convention in San Diego, California.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comment, DeLeon Guerrero said the CNMI must network with major gaming/casino industry players if it wants to understand the industry better. She underscored the importance of getting ideas if the CNMI wants to pursue further on how to turn this casino industry issue into a viable and sustainable one, such as creating a hotel with a gaming amenity concept.

After attending the ASEAN Gaming Summit in Manila last March 21-23 with six other lawmakers, Magofna (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the Senate Gaming Committee, then attended the Indian Gaming Trade-show & Convention at the San Diego Convention Center, in San Diego, California, last March 27-30.

As of yesterday, Magofna has yet to comment about her San Diego and Manila trips. It's not clear yet whether she is still off-island.

Magofna notified DeLeon Guerrero last March 19 that she will be out of the CNMI on official business trips from March 19 to 29. She said she will be back on April 6.

DeLeon Guerrero said the San Diego conference has a different focus that could provide the CNMI a different operational concept similar to such as those managed to benefit the American Indians.

The Senate president said potential casino industry investor consultants

in the United States have been looking at the CNMI.

“This is the opportunity for the CNMI to network, to gain insights from these experts with clients looking to diversify their investment portfolios, that could help guide the CNMI into exploring a different gaming industry approach,” she said.

DeLeon Guerrero said the CNMI has to diversify and market the destination with industry amenities, while at the same time conduct due diligence.

“And, yes, legislative actions may be unpopular but we must do so to help revive our economy or sit back and hope for something miraculous, but as we all know it does not work that way in building one's state economy,” she said.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is cutting the work schedule of some Executive Branch employees to just 72 hours starting April 24, 2023, and through the end of fiscal year 2023.

In his directive issued last March 16, Palacios said affected employees are those under the Executive Branch whose personnel costs are funded in whole or in part by federal American Rescue Plan Act funds or local revenues.

Citing that the fiscal challenges the CNMI faces impact the whole government and the whole community, Palacios urged the Legislature and Judiciary, as well as the autonomous agencies of the government, to similarly implement cost-containment measures, particularly with respect to operations or personnel that were funded in whole or in part by the ARPA in fiscal year 2023.

Vet: Big things happening in CNMI with animal services

By **LEIGH GASES**

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In her short time in the CNMI, volunteer veterinarian Dr. Whitney Collins has accomplished many things and she'll be back for more as there are big things happening here related to animal services, treatment, and welfare.

With the CNMI being underserved when it comes to

animal services, a series of clinics were held over the year, and just last month, Collins wrapped up veterinary care clinic services on Saipan in collaboration with the recently established nonprofit Saipan Humane Society and the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido. In between she has also met with Rota Mayor Aubrey Hocog regarding their

stray dog issue.

Collins has already left, but will be back to offer more services soon as well as assist Rota and maybe Tinian too.

In February, a public notice from the Rota Municipal Council ordered residents of the island to secure their pet dogs because of a plan to "destroy" unlicensed and unclaimed dogs following a

rounding up operation.

With that, during Collins' visit there, she encouraged them to link up with local partners such as the Saipan Dog Control Program and the Saipan Humane Society who have been a great resource on Saipan.

Collins hopes that their meetings on Rota "gave the community validation regarding their concern about the feral dogs. The

dogs can pose a threat to public safety and damage island ecology, and Rota is a perfect example of this. It is important to get a hold of the situation before it becomes overwhelming, and I think they are doing a great job raising awareness of the need."

When asked what the barrier on Rota is regarding a more humane treatment of dogs, she said there are simply too many dogs and not enough homes "The only way to manage this is to reduce the number of dogs humanely, while limiting their population growth through spay/neuter. A shelter is only effective if effective programs are in place to manage the population growth; otherwise it can become a warehouse for dogs."

"I do hope to see them get enough funding to at least purchase basic supplies. If there is a small investment in controlling the dogs there now, it could save a lot of money down the road. If we wait until the problem is out of control, it could cost a lot more money and hurt the island as well," she added.

Rota Municipal Council member Jim Atalig told Saipan Tribune he has been working with Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) on getting a grant for the program, along with the Saipan Humane Society's Lauren Cabrera and Collins and their group.

"[A] total number 30 residents have inquired about the licensing of their dogs," he said. "I would like for

our community to be more active in helping each other to address this issue. I would like to partner up with our community as [well] so we all can work together to resolve this problem."

Cabrera said that she has tried to apply for many grants, but the CNMI does not qualify for many animal-focused grants stateside "because we are not a state. Yet international organizations will not fund us because we aren't international. It is pretty frustrating," she said. "But my hope is to find a grant to help. I have some ideas, but nothing solid. ...I am looking into the possibility of some federal grants that could possibly apply—but that is a bit of a stretch."

When asked how many stray dogs there are on Rota, Cabrera said that there hasn't been an official survey done yet.

As for Collins, she said that she enjoys her trip to the CNMI. When asked whether she will make the CNMI her permanent home one day, she said, "At this time, due to other work abroad, there are no plans of my permanent relocation to the CNMI. However, I am interested in dedicating time to future regular return trips throughout the year."

The clinic scheduled for April 10 to 14 at the SMO Animal Shelter has been postponed, but there will be two veterinarians that will be available for clinics tentatively planned for May 18 to June 19 and possibly longer.

To sign up on the waitlist for spay/neuter or other services, go to <https://bit.ly/SHSClinic>

WICHE offers tuition savings to CNMI students attending western US colleges and universities

By **LEIGH GASES**

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three programs under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education enables CNMI students to save on college tuition when attending western U.S. colleges and universities, according to WICHE officials who are doing a site visit at Northern Marianas College right now.

It was learned during a news briefing yesterday with the WICHE officials that CNMI college students, in fact, saved a total of \$1.51 million in the 2022-2023 academic year alone through WICHE's Student Access Programs.

These programs—Western Undergraduate Exchange, Western Regional Graduate Program, and Professional Student Exchange Program—enable CNMI students attending either of the 16 member states' college/university under WICHE to save on tuition as they do not have to pay an out-of-state tuition rate, but rather just pay at a rate that's closer to state-resident tuition.

It was learned that, in the 2022-2023 academic year, CNMI college students saved \$1.33 million through WUE, \$67,000 through WRGP, and \$114,333 through PSEP, according to a WICHE pamphlet distributed in yesterday's news briefing. The WUE saves undergraduate students, while the WRGP saves students on out-of-state graduate certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. The PSEP helps students pursuing careers in 10 health fields in which they can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

The 16 member states and territories are the western states of Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States (CNMI, Guam, Fed-



LEIGH GASES

From left, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education vice president Patrick Lane, Northern Marianas College vice president of Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, WICHE president Demaree "Demi" Michelau, WICHE commission chair Matt Freeman, WICHE immediate past chair and president of the University of Hawaii Dr. David Lassner, and NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero pose for a souvenir picture after a news briefing detailing NMC's WICHE membership that allows CNMI students to save on tuition in western U.S. colleges and universities.

erated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau).

ss conference was organized yesterday morning at the NMC Board of Regents conference room to introduce the visiting group: WICHE president Demaree "Demi" Michelau, WICHE vice president Patrick Lane, WICHE immediate past chair and president of the University of Hawaii Dr. David Lassner, and WICHE commission chair Matt Freeman.

How this NMC-WICHE partnership began, according to Frankie Eliptico, NMC's vice president of Administration and Advancement, was that they noticed a lot of CNMI college students were going to college in western states.

"Of course, we want all of our students graduating from high schools to come to Northern Marianas College, but we know that we also want to make sure they're taking advantage of many other universities and colleges that are out there," he said. "So, we wanted to make sure that they were given an opportunity to save some money and also make sure that the scholarship funds that they were given were going farther, because before, they were paying out-of-state tuition."

The ultimate goal, Eliptico said, is "to allow them to use their scholarship funds and make it go and last longer and farther, so that they can graduate and the big hope is that they come back to the Commonwealth and apply their skills and knowledge here in the CNMI."

Even with the range of savings and opportunities elsewhere, NMC has not seen a decline in enrollment from the past few years, according to Eliptico. "The membership really does complement the range of offerings because we cannot be everything to everybody, so we want to make sure that students are accessing programs that we may or we may not have."

Beyond that, "the network, the association, the advocacy, the research [has] been critical and the past few years, we've been able to lean on WICHE," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "President Lassner and Dr. [Michelau] helped us navigate through some mountains of federal legislation. If it weren't for that membership, we may have missed out on some key funding opportunities. So, it's more than just helping our students—it's helping our college, it's helping all the higher education institu-

tions in the western Pacific.

WICHE has been enhancing higher education, workforce development, and behavioral health in the Western US region since 1953. More information can be found at www.wiche.edu.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROBERTO P. ROSAL JR.
Petitioner,
vs.
MARY JOY T. ROSAL
Respondent.

FCD-DI
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 23-0068
SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on the file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 504974 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2023.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID ITB23-GOV-42300065

ROTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT

SUBMISSION DATE: **10:00 AM ChST, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2023**

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), is soliciting sealed bids for the **Rota Department of Public Works Equipment**, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project is funded by the 702 Covenant Capital Improvement Project funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on Wednesday, **April 5, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held at the CIP Office at the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST, April 19, 2023**. Proposers may also request to participate virtually via Zoom Meetings five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST, April 26, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, May 9, 2023**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**
Governor, CNMI

/s/**Brien S. Nicholas, Jr., Acting Director**
CNMI Procurement Services

April is dedicated to raising awareness vs sexual violence



Members of the community, supporting agencies as well as dignitaries join the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence and Lt Gov. David M. Apatang yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Members of the community, supporting agencies, and dignitaries joined the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan yesterday for a proclamation signing designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The ceremony was held at the hotel's Hibiscus Hall and

saw a packed room as many gathered to show their support. The event's inspirational speaker, lawyer and former lawmaker Rosemond Sword, shared her deeply moving survivor story, which touched many in the audience.

The theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "Support all Survivors and End Victim Blame." Being that many survivors are often met with disbelief upon opening up about their traumatic experiences, the

proclamation urges the community to show their support and care for those who have experienced sexual trauma, and highlighted that since a loved one's words and actions have incredible impact on victims of sexual vio-

lence, and if not used positively, they may cause more harm to a victim and allow such violence to continue.

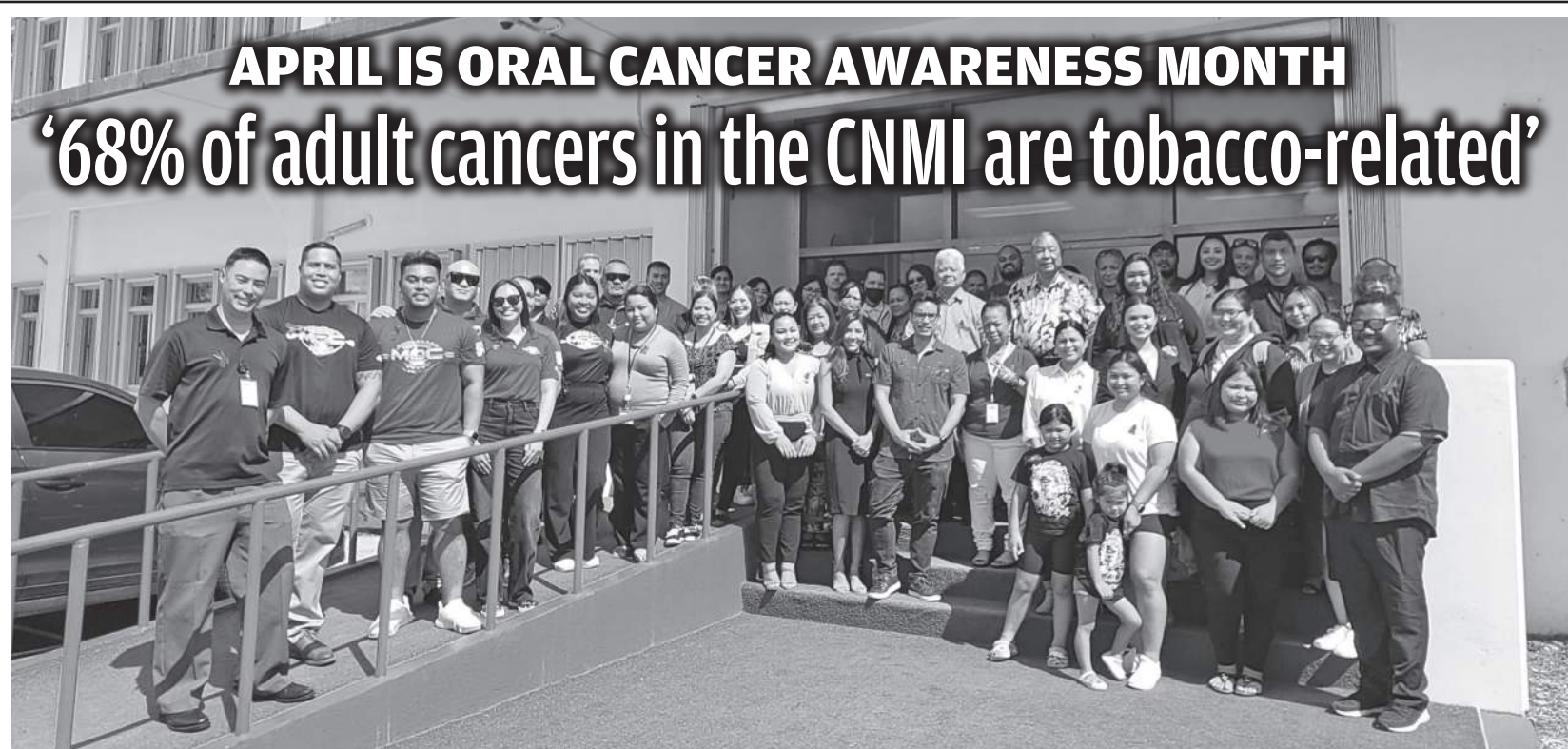
The proclamation also reiterates that sexual violence, although more prevalent among women and children, is not limited to a certain age group or gender, and that every person must do their part, one of which is showing victims the support they need and helping them feel safe as well as getting them assistance. With government and community-based programs and agencies designed to help in these situations, the proclamation encourages the CNMI that everyone can help to see that this type of violence stops.

Apatang said that, by raising awareness, and reporting sexual assault against any person regardless of gender, and age, "we can make our community safer, and send a message to offenders that they are being watched."

"We as individuals and as a community have to be taught to not condone violence against anyone. We as collective caring citizens must demand that justice be extremely tough against perpetrators of sexual assault and violence," he said, adding that there should be no place in the community for a person who calls a place their home and yet has the audacity to commit sexual violence against another community member.

"Let it not be this month only be the single time to raise awareness about sexual assault and violence. We must make awareness a daily task, a monthly task, and, yes, a yearly one. We have to make it an everyday issue," he said.

With the month dedicated to supporting and helping sexual assault survivors, the NMCADSV will be hosting a series of events throughout the month and is inviting the community to join the movement.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, as well as oral cancer survivors, and supporting community and family members pose with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang shortly after the Oral Cancer Awareness Month proclamation signing at the Governor's Office last Friday on Capital Hill.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The month of April has been designated as Oral Cancer Awareness Month in order to raise further advocacy and war against one of the CNMI's deadly killers.

Gov. Arnold Palacios, and Lt. Governor David Apatang presided over the proclamation signing ceremony last Friday at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill in a ceremony attended by the Commonwealth Cancer Association, survivors, family members, and community members, with several indi-

viduals sharing their inspirational stories.

The proclamation noted that 19% of adults in the CNMI, chew betel nut. Of that number, 88%—which is a vast majority—add cigarettes to their chew, and many start the habit at a young age, with 33% of high school students reportedly chewing betel nut. With these statistics, and the fact that one out of four adults in the CNMI currently smoke cigarettes, the proclamation highlighted the sad reality that 68% of adult cancers in the CNMI are tobacco-related.

The proclamation noted that

although some claim that the "chew" is a part of the island's culture, it also plays a fatal role in the loss of many of the island's loved ones, and therefore the use of it must be discouraged, prevented, and stopped.

"Declare your personal war on cancer and choose life for ourselves and our loved ones," the proclamation stated, encouraging members in the community to help stop the death toll and suffering caused by oral cancer by personal change, spreading awareness, and being an advocate against the evils that cause oral cancer.

Palacios also shared some of his past battle with nico-

tine and thanked the CCA and advocates for their labor in spreading awareness about the causes of oral cancer. "I want to commend and recognize everyone that's here for their efforts, especially the Commonwealth Cancer Association for your continued effort to bring this issue to the forefront of our community."

Apatang also thanked the CCA, survivors, and advocates against oral cancer, and commended those who work tirelessly to help prevent oral cancer deaths and suffering. As a cancer survivor himself—although not oral cancer—Apatang said he can

sympathize with those who have cancer, and he hopes that a solution can soon be found to stop oral cancer, including a cap on the easy availability of products like betel nut that can cause cancer. "Parents, it starts with us. ... You have to be strong to stop it," he added.

Shortly after the ceremony, CCA president Bo Palacios said the association and its board of directors are making oral cancer front and center into 2023. "We are still going to work on building awareness on all the other types of cancers but in January 2023 our board of directors voted to declare war against oral cancer."

10 4-H Marianas youth to represent NMI at 4-H national

Ten representatives from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will represent the CNMI at the 2023 National 4-H Conference this month.

The 10 are Jinkim Abogado, Claire Barrozo, Sylvia Sanchez, Clarize Rodriguez, Chad Acollador, Jaselle Manglona, Kaitlyn Balgoa, Rownel Jody Coloma, Ryan Nuera, Robbie Suzuki Jr., and their chaperone, Beda Mundo, who is an extension aide for the Family, Community and Youth Development program under the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services.

Abogado, Barrozo, Sanchez, Rodriguez, Acollador, Manglona, Balgoa, Coloma, and Mundo were all awarded travel scholarships by New Mexico State University. Coloma and Nuera were selected by the national committee to be a part of the leadership and



Mundo
facilitator teams.

"Congratulations to our 4-H Marianas youth who have been selected to represent the CNMI at the National 4-H Conference," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D. said. "We are incredibly proud of the 10 for their hard work and dedication to the 4-H program. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing about their experiences."

4-H youth aged between 15 and 19 from other Land-Grant



University 4-H Departments will be participating in the National 4-H Conference on April 14-19, 2023. The young delegates work together for four weeks before the conference to prepare briefings on important topics. During the conference, they will virtually present their briefings to federal officials in Washington, D.C. Along with this, the conference provides a platform for personal development experiences, knowledge sharing, and skill-building while dis-



Barrozo
cussing topics affecting youth and 4-H programming across the country.

"Our NMC-CREES FCYD and 4-H Marianas team's youth-led programming approach continues to positively impact our CNMI youth. It is reassuring to know that their efforts are recognized locally and nationally," NMC-CREES interim dean Patty Coleman said.

Coloma, an undergraduate student at NMC and 4-H Marianas Youth State Council president, will be one of 21 National 4-H Conference collegiate facilitators. His group will host and facilitate the youth roundtable groups, where each group is given a challenge question submitted by a federal agency. The roundtable groups prepare a 45-minute Youth Perspective Briefing that is presented to the federal agency.

"I am truly excited to represent the CNMI at the national level again," Coloma said. "Despite coming from a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific, the experience will be worthwhile and beneficial. It is a testament to my peers to chase after every opportunity as you may not know where it may take you. I'm excited to work with the collegiate team and hope to learn new things from one another during our short time together. I'm excited to meet the delegations that will gather at this year's National 4-H Conference. I look forward to this journey and the new responsibilities that await me as a collegiate facilitator."

Nuera, a senior at Tinian Jr/Sr High School and the 4-H Marianas Youth State Council president, will be a part of the 2023 National 4-H Conference Youth Leadership Team where he will work with five



Rodriguez



Manglona



Abogado



Balgoa



Suzuki Jr



Coloma



Nuera



Sanchez

other students from across the country to plan and facilitate the conference's events.

"I feel grateful to represent the Marianas at a national level once again," Nuera said. "At first, I was anxious to apply for the facilitator position as I had originally attended as a delegate last year. This year, I hope to create bonds with my fellow team members and create an enjoyable environment for the delegates at the 2023 National 4-H Conference."

Manglona, one of the youth representatives from Rota, said she is excited and grate-

ful for the opportunity to represent the CNMI.

"I am excited to go to the event and meet youth in 4-H from around the country," Manglona said. "I am also excited to share my ideas with other delegates while hearing their own thoughts. I am looking forward to the different activities I'll be able to join in!"

For more information about 4-H Marianas or the 2023 National 4-H Conference, contact NMC-CREES FCYD extension agent Robbie Suzuki Jr. via email at robert.jr.suzuki@marianas.edu. (NMC)

UOG School of Business partners with Japan universities for 17th conference



Dr. Akihiro Noguchi of Nagoya University, center, is seen with some of the University of Guam representatives on the first day of the International Conference on Business, Economics and Information Technology on March 13, 2023, at the conference's Nagoya satellite venue. With him from left: Jackysha Green, assistant professor of elementary education; Joann Diego, assistant professor of Human Resources Management and co-chair of the Nagoya satellite; and HRM students Denzyl Ngiralmu and Jamie Freitas.

The University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration partnered with three Japanese universities in organizing the recent International Conference on Business, Economics and Information Technology.

This is the 17th year that UOG's SBPA leadership organized the international conference. UOG collaborated with Nagoya University, 16th-year partner; Osaka Metropolitan University, sixth-year partner; and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, 11th-year partner.

The conference brought together more than 80 scholars from 32 universities in

Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, China, and Guam.

The first day was held on March 13 as an in-person conference at satellite venues in Nagoya, Osaka, and Tokyo while also allowing for virtual participation. The second day was held at the Westin Resort Guam in Tumon, and virtual participation also took place.

Both days of the conference opened with remarks by UOG senior vice president and provost Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, SBPA inter-



Enriquez



Ruane



Jones

im dean and professor of economics Dr. Roseann Jones, and conference co-chair and UOG professor of economics Dr. Claret Ruane.

"SBPA students displayed professionalism—they persevered, they presented, and they represented SBPA well. I am proud of our students and of our faculty mentors who have demonstrated unsailable support for student admission into the world of academic scholarship with bright minds sharing informed perspectives," according to Jones. (UOG)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCC moves to new office

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has moved to the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A) effective April 3, 2023. This new location is just two floors down from its previous location.

All our phone and fax numbers will remain the same, and all email addresses will also remain unchanged. (PR)

SCC general membership meeting this Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have

its general membership meeting this Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort. Doors will be open at 11:30pm and meeting will go on until 1pm.

The Chamber will be discussing important updates and developments within the organization, as well as updates from Chamber committees and a presentation by guest speakers regarding military activities within the CNMI.

To ensure we have an accurate headcount for the event, it is advised to RSVP by April 4, 2023. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Macron should stand his ground

French President Emmanuel Macron is being criticized for pressing on with a divisive pension reform despite a lack of parliamentary support and angry protests across the country. It's true that he's gambled, but he's right to persevere. Macron's reforms are both moderate and necessary: It's his critics who're letting France down.

Outsiders can only marvel at the rage aroused by Macron's proposal. Over more than a week, hundreds of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets, widespread strikes have roiled the economy, extremists have attacked police and damaged property, flights and public transit have crept to a standstill, and some gas stations have all but gone dry thanks to refinery disruptions. Trash piled up across Paris as garbage collectors walked out.

For all that, the mooted reforms aren't exactly revolutionary. Macron wants to gradually raise the basic retirement age from 62 to 64, which would still be low in comparison with most other countries. Although modest, that change would make a significant difference: Because the current system replaces an unusually big share of incomes in work, it costs 14% of gross domestic product, roughly double what the US spends on its own relatively generous public-pension program. Public spending in France stands at some 60% of GDP, leaving no room in the budget for such excess. The longer the needed reforms are delayed, the worse the fiscal problem will get.

In short, the case for action could hardly be stronger—which might explain why many are attacking Macron for the method of his reform as much as its substance. Unable to command a majority in parliament, the president used a constitutional provision to advance the plan at his own initiative. This maneuver, known as 49.3, has yet to be reviewed by France's constitutional council. But it appears to be lawful in this case and is otherwise almost routine: Introduced by President Charles de Gaulle, it's been deployed 100 times by successive governments.

Of course, a straightforward vote would've been preferable. Invoking 49.3 was bound to not only inflame the backlash to Macron's plan (as it has) but to validate the widespread perception of the president as imperious and dismissive of dissent. His critics argue—with some justification—that Macron is substituting his personal judgment for that of the two-thirds of French voters who oppose the plan.

Yet there's a measure of hypocrisy in these claims. Many parliamentarians who had declined to directly support the pension reform chose to sustain the government in the confidence votes, allowing the plan to proceed regardless. This was a craven denial of responsibility. If they opposed the plan, they should've blocked it. If they saw the case for it, they should've said so, and put the argument before voters. Instead, they've allowed Macron to take the heat for changes that almost every fair-minded analyst has concluded are needed to put the country's finances on a sustainable footing.

Leadership sometimes demands making unpopular decisions. Macron has risked his government and his personal

See **MACRON** on Page 9

No American is above the law, not even former presidents

No American is above the law—not even former presidents. After a monthslong investigation, a New York grand jury indicted former president Donald J. Trump on charges related to hush-money payments made to adult film star Stormy Daniels in the lead-up to the 2016 election.

The grand jury, consisting of typical Americans across race, background and political party, weighed the evidence and decided to bring charges. Other indictments of the former president may be forthcoming for his mishandling of classified documents and for his role in attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election, including the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

The charges out of New York stem from a January 2018 Wall Street Journal story breaking the news of the hush-money payments made to Daniels to keep her from going public in 2016 about an affair with Trump. Recognizing a series of apparent campaign finance violations, Common Cause quickly drafted and filed complaints with the Department of Justice and the Federal Election Commission. Trump's former lawyer and "fixer," Michael Cohen, pleaded guilty and served jail time for his role in the violations. Still, until now, the former president was only an unindicted co-conspirator.

Campaign finance violations are a threat to democracy that must be taken seriously. History has shown time and again that abuses will proliferate without checks on influence-buying and enforcement of campaign finance laws, and our democracy will end up on the auction block to the highest bidders. Campaign finance violations played a key role in the Watergate crisis that ultimately led to the resignation of former President Richard Nixon. Americans deserve to know who is trying to influence their voices and votes, and Common Cause has a long history of holding presidents accountable. In 1972, we sued then-President Nixon's campaign for failing to disclose its donors, and we won.

At the height of the Watergate crisis, the Department of Justice determined that the indictment or criminal prosecution of a sitting president "would unconstitutionally undermine the capacity of the executive branch to perform its constitutionally assigned functions." That policy has not changed, but that is not the policy for candidates for the nation's highest office. Running for president cannot and must not serve as a shield to allow criminal conduct to go unpunished.

Investigations of Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election may well draw additional indictments. As the nonpartisan Janu-

By AARON SCHERB
InsideSources.com

Aaron Scherb is the senior director of legislative affairs at Common Cause, which since 1970, has passed hundreds of reforms at the federal, state and local levels to protect and strengthen our democracy. Common Cause does not endorse or oppose candidates for office. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.



ary 6 Committee investigation revealed, Trump was fully aware that he had lost a free and fair election when he knowingly and willfully incited an armed mob of insurrectionists to attack the Capitol to prevent the peaceful transfer of power. People died that day, and scores were injured while for hours—with the lives of his vice president, members of Congress, staff and law enforcement in danger—Trump refused to call off the mob he had unleashed.

Multiple investigations of various aspects of the conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election continue, and the former president remains under local, state and federal investigations. Prosecutors must be given the time and opportunity to do their jobs and weigh whether to indict individuals for criminal conduct. Partisan political interference with these decisions by members of Congress or any elected official is inappropriate and completely unacceptable.

Unfortunately, MAGA Republicans in the House of Representatives have already attempted to interfere with the grand jury's work and intimidate Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. In the act of knee-jerk partisan fealty, no fewer than three House Republican committee chairs demanded that Bragg testify in Washington and turn over documents related to the investigation of Trump's hush-money payments. This blatant abuse of power came after Trump complained on social media about a coming indictment in New York and, notably, before the grand jury had even voted to indict the former president. This bullying attempt to interfere with a law enforcement investigation by Trump accomplices in Congress was surely noted by other prosecutors weighing their indictments against the former president.

Americans expect the truth, and we deserve justice. Donald Trump's indictment in New York is a step in the right direction to achieve both. But ultimately, our democracy will not be safe until all those responsible for Jan. 6 and the conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election are held accountable.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

My pregnancy caused crushing pain. Why didn't my doctors think that was a problem?

When I was pregnant with my second child, the pain in my pelvis was extraordinary. "It's normal," my white obstetrician said. I told her I had never felt such pain. She instructed me to walk with small steps, "like a geisha."

When giving birth, I again said that something was wrong. My pubic bone felt broken. The same obstetrician assured me that the pain I was feeling was normal. I told her that a nurse had recommended, during an earlier visit, that I labor on my side because of a possible pubic rupture. The doctor asked me to show her what I meant, but I couldn't demonstrate while in active labor. So she directed me to my back, the way she had been trained. After my baby arrived, I became paralyzed from the waist down for some minutes. Then the pain crushed into my hips, and I began to scream.

The doctor never acknowledged that she hadn't listened to me or that her own training had failed me. She prescribed physical therapy and a specialist to treat my split pubic bone. That I had felt broken, and likely was, even before labor, was brushed off as merely what happens to women's bodies.

As a Black woman, I'm accustomed to my pain not being taken seriously by doctors. A majority of Black Americans report having negative healthcare experiences, including "having to speak up to get proper care and being treated with less respect than other patients," according to a Pew study. Black women are also three times more likely than white women to die from a pregnancy-related cause. And Black patients report that their pain is undertreated.

In my experience, however, the solution isn't only about having a Black physician. Even Black women, raised and educated in this society, can assume our bodies should be sick or broken. Without enough counternarratives, Black people can easily in-

ternalize racism; women can easily internalize misogyny.

As a novelist, I understand how storytelling can influence people's perceptions. My own reproductive health treatment has shown me that women's true stories of pain are being neglected by our medical providers because of the problematic ways our society views women's pain. We need to be braver in telling these stories, and humbler in taking them seriously.

From the time a girl gets her period, she's told to toughen up and bear it. As I've moved through my reproductive years, not much feels like it's changed.

After having my third child, I decided to go on an intrauterine device, or IUD, a form of birth control that's a little hook made of bendy wire. Then came the pain.

I showed my new gynecologist the place in the corner of my hip where it hurt, which started along with spotting blood after I had sex. I'd thought the IUD got jostled around.

She insisted that it wasn't the IUD, and that sex can cause pain and bleeding. But that had never happened to me.

"Then you've been lucky. It's just your body."

This gynecologist was a Black woman. And yet here I was again. She assumed pain to be my body's natural and acceptable state. Was that what she had been taught to accept for her own body? I asked her to replace the IUD, but she insisted I wait it out.

I switched physicians. I told the new doctor: Take out the IUD and put in a new one. I don't know what her training or personal life had taught her, but I know she was a wife and mother. When she took the IUD out, she told me it was broken—bent and sideways and bloody. It had been scraping me.

It took an exceptionally good doctor, who happened to be white, to overcome a bias that even Black female doctors

By TIPHANIE YANIQUE

Los Angeles Times



*Tiphany Yanique is a professor of creative writing at Emory University and the author of four books, including the novel *Monster in the Middle*.*

had about my body. My previous doctors, white, Black, of color, weren't necessarily bad doctors. They were relying on what their training, medical and societal, had led them to believe and taught them to do.

Because my new gynecologist seemed like she was listening to me, I stopped her before she put in the new IUD. "What if I have pain and bleeding again?"

She pushed back from the examination table and looked me in my eyes as we talked: IUDs are imperfect. Medicine is imperfect. We make the best decision under the circumstances. She added: "You decide now if you want a new IUD, a different kind of IUD or something else altogether. Pain and bleeding isn't normal. But you knew that. I read your file."

She may have known about my torn pelvis during pregnancy or my other experiences. In the medical records, my specific body had its own literature for her to learn from. She didn't assume my body was a problem. My doctor listened to my specific story and assumed that my narrative was valuable in treating me. We both agreed that my being healthy was normal. I hope that's the starting point other doctors and patients will embrace too.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Embrace our military

The truth of the matter is our military is our friend and protector, so why promote anything that contributes to creating conflict between the people and their friend and protector. It seems just mentioning the "military" causes bias and alarms to go off in the minds of some people who may have actually experienced or seen a mistake by the military, as I will be the first to say the military is not perfect when dealing with civilian populations. But I must humbly and respectfully oppose the criticism by OCW 670 against the CNMI entertaining military tourists, not a military buildup. The pivot toward "military tourism" is a good and sound idea, given the military bases on Guam and the CNMI's role in the military activities in our region. The last thing we in the CNMI need is for someone trying to stop progress in the CNMI and not offer any viable options for our tourism industry.

Asserting that entertaining military tourists is somehow going to cause adverse effects on the local culture and environment is far-reaching and even baseless, es-

pecially when the only thing offered in the opposition to military tourism is subjective belief with no related examples. There is nothing to support such a claim of harm to the culture and environment as military tourists are no different than tourists from Japan or another nation—just tourist numbers and dollars. The proposal is only about pursuing and entertaining military tourists and not some ulterior unforeseen plan for the military over-extending its physical presence in the form of structures and military hardware.

I commend OCW 670 for looking out for the culture and environment, but they are way off-base in opposing the CNMI targeting and entertaining people in the military as a viable tourism market, given that, the military is already camped at our front doorstep. Sugar Dock's modernization was stopped for culture. We should have already learned this lesson of yelling "stop!" before thinking objectively, critically, and analytically of the big picture. We also don't look good not wanting the military to vacation in the CNMI, as it makes us look like parasites, not patriots!

Too often people who never pray cry, "Oh, Lord Jesus

Christ," when something goes horribly wrong and too often I've seen people who were openly against the police until they needed their help, and some people seem to have been pre-programmed to complain about America's military until there was a Pearl Harbor, the Cuban missile crisis and, more recently, the rise of dictators in Russia, North Korea, and China. If one of these three goes cuckoo, we will all be praying for the military to be more than tourists. Why should the CNMI be so against allowing military tourists, given our place in the American family and being so close to the frontlines of defense in a world that is proving to be more and more dangerous day by day? Having the military here actually makes many of us feel safer!

The military tourists can play a role in rebuilding our tourism economy. We've been cutting cost, which is the easy part as we need to also move faster and do more to expand our economic base by creating more new revenue sources that can complement a sound and broad-based tourism market if we are to truly find real prosperity. The governor is right, economically and morally, as we must always welcome and support the military in any and every way that we can, as they are our friends and protectors, not our enemy! We must be careful about our fears from other experiences that can grow into bias and even hate—a loss of objectivity. We're depending on the military to keep us safe as the world is a dangerous place. We need to be thankful for the military and those who serve and welcome them as tourists.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

MACRON
From Page 8

popularity (which has plummeted) to stick with an unloved but necessary reform. Even if he loses this gamble—even if the strikes and protests eventually force him to back down—he has done the right thing.

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Thank you

On behalf of Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours, our guests asked me to thank Mayor Camacho of Saipan, Mayor Aldan of Tinian, and the Marianas Visitors Authority for the efforts they made to clean the historic sites on Saipan and Tinian. From the peak of Tapochau to the Atomic Bomb Pits, these influential Americans walked in the footsteps of their fathers, reliving the history of our islands as few other Americans can. They are now at home, showing their new photo collection to family, friends, and neighbors, telling stories of the history they had learned, and, hopefully, encouraging others to visit our islands.

They made only two requests. Although Suicide Cliff, the Last Command Post, and Banzai Cliff were in excellent condition, and heartrending sites, the restrooms were locked.

On Tinian, their only request was to have the American Cem-

etry re-opened so that they could pay respect to their fallen fathers and uncles who were buried there. Although the bodies were exhumed and returned to America in 1947, they wished they could have left a memorial bouquet for all the men who had died on Tinian during World War II.

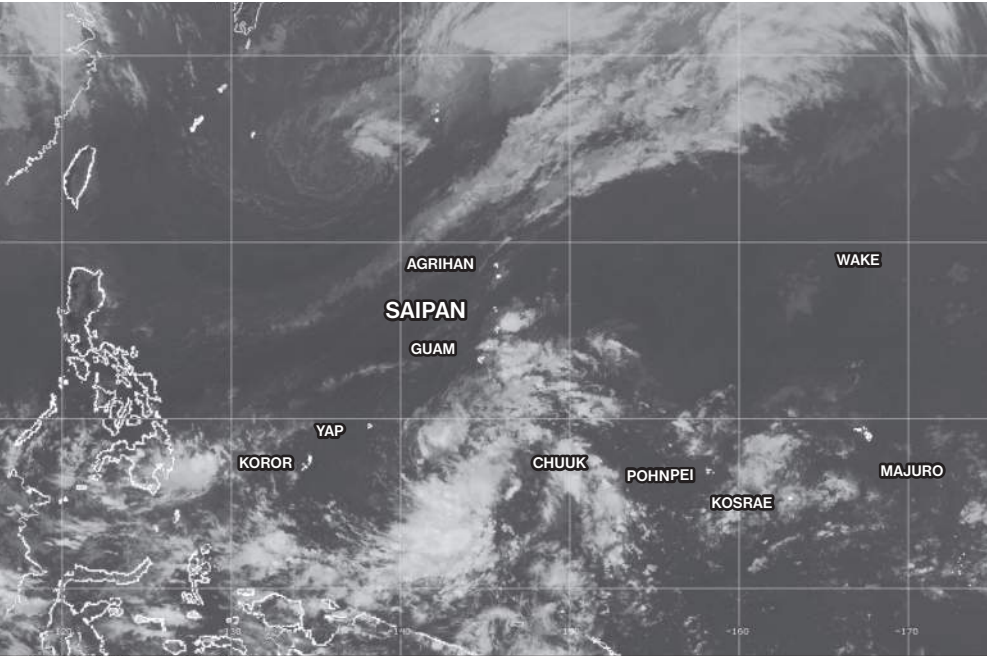
Personally, my thanks to Gordon Marciano for providing air and ground transportation within the CNMI, and to Deborah Fleming for managing the ground transportation for all the historical tour agencies that visited Tinian during the annual Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor tour of the Marianas. Because of the lack of vehicles, it was a major headache. Nonetheless, as always, Deborah got the job done, and done well with local drivers.

Finally, I was asked about the preparations for the 80th Anniversary of the invasion of Saipan, June 15, 2024. I promised to let them know, as soon as plans were announced.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|
| TODAY | | WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Scattered showers. Partly sunny | | Isolated showers. Mostly sunny | | Mostly sunny | | Mostly sunny | | A chance of showers. Partly sunny | |
| 85° | 78° | 85° | 78° | 86° | 79° | 86° | 79° | 86° | 79° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed only a few showers over the Marianas this morning. Southeast winds prevail over the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Scattered Thunderstorms | 88° / 79° |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 76° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Scattered Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Majuro | Scattered Thunderstorms | 84° / 80° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:10 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:10 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Thursday | 6:09 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Friday | 6:08 AM | 6:30 PM |
| Saturday | 6:08 AM | 6:30 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | - | 4:54 AM | 4:58 PM |
| Wednesday | - | 5:29 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Thursday | - | 6:03 AM | 6:35 PM |
| Friday | - | 6:40 AM | 7:27 PM |
| Saturday | - | 7:19 AM | 8:21 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 59° / 50° |
| Beijing | Light Rain | 58° / 46° |
| Hong Kong | Scattered Thunderstorms | 77° / 72° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 73° |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 58° |
| Los Angeles | Clouds | 60° / 45° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 92° / 75° |
| Melbourne | Showers | 58° / 48° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 77° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 60° / 50° |
| Osaka | Mostly Sunny | 69° / 56° |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 80° / 63° |
| Busan | Cloudy | 66° / 59° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 62° / 42° |
| Salem | Sunny | 90° / 64° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 68° / 52° |
| Seoul | Cloudy | 69° / 53° |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | 67° / 51° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 72° / 56° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|
| 12:38 AM | Low Tide | 0.26 |
| 7:08 AM | High Tide | 1.76 |
| 1:09 PM | Low Tide | 0.72 |
| 6:45 PM | High Tide | 1.73 |

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2023 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | |
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | Daily |
| SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT) | | | |
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | |
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:15PM | 9:10PM | Daily |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) | | | |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| TW9308 | 3:45AM | 7:30AM | 4, 7 |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily |
| ARRIVALS | | | |
| GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |
| MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:15AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA189 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| UA192 | 11:50PM | 5:35AM+1 | 2, 5 |
| MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |
| INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| TW9307 | 9:00PM | 2:45AM+1 | 3, 6 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022 | | | |
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | |
| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

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Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LW new & used opens in Koblerville

A new thrift shop owned by former travel agents has sprouted in Koblerville.

LW new & used, as its name already suggests, however, doesn't just sell second-hand items as the store is slowly building up its inventory of new items like spanking new beds and furniture from China.

Steven Wang, co-owner of LW new & used, said the store opened last January to serve the segment of the local community that can't afford new items but are pretty content with used ones.

The 48-year-old former garment worker, who has made Saipan his home for the past 20 years, said they also opened LW new & used to have income.

"We also opened because



MARK RABAGO
LW new & used is located along Chalan Monsignor Martinez just before the road leading to Paradiso Hotel in Koblerville.

we used to work at a tour company but it closed due to COVID-19 because of a lack of tourists. We had to open a business to survive," said Wang.

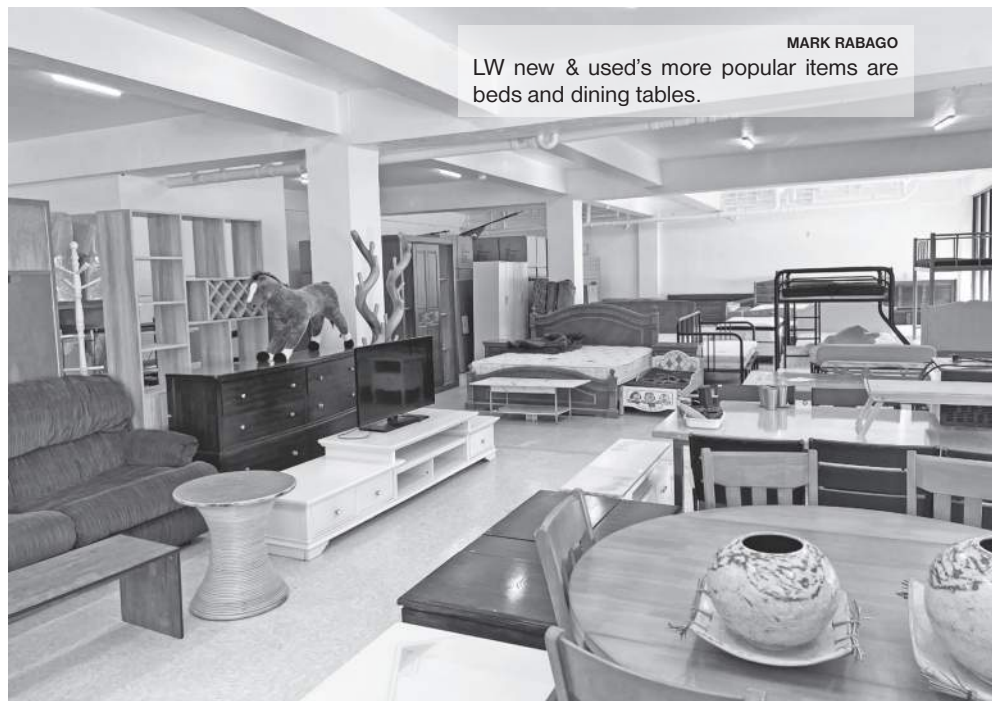
Among the items sold at LW new & used are second-hand furniture, microwaves, refrigerators, shelves, aquariums, coolers, tents, cabinets, desks, office chairs, patio furniture, decorative pieces, pet cages (cat, dog, birds), and other items like power tools, etc.

Wang, who hails from Chengjiang, China, said they fill up their inventory by usually scouring weekly garage sales. Their biggest score, however, came when one of the bigger houseware stores on Saipan closed down recently and they bought most of their items.

LW new & used averages around 10-15 customers a day and Wang said they come from everywhere on the island. Their more popular items are beds and dining tables.

Asked whether they will keep the store open if tourists return, Wang said they will cross the bridge when they get there.

LW new & used is located along Chalan Monsignor Martinez just before the road leading to Paradiso Hotel in Koblerville. It is open from Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, Saturday, 2pm-6pm, and Sunday, 10pm-3pm. For more information, call (670) 288-8606.



MARK RABAGO
LW new & used's more popular items are beds and dining tables.



MARK RABAGO

LW new & used also had an extensive inventory of power tools for sale.

Small areas reopen near Fukushima nuclear plant, few return

TOKYO (AP)—Evacuation orders were lifted in small sections of a Japanese town just southwest of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant on Saturday, in time for the area's popular cherry blossom season, and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida joined a ceremony to mark the reopening.

The area of about 4 square kilometers (1.5 square miles) where entry restrictions were lifted is part of Tomioka town, most of which had already been reopened since an earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 triggered triple meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Former residents and visitors celebrated the latest reopening as they strolled along a street known as "the cherry blossoms tunnel."

Koichi Ono, 75, was back to the neighborhood where he grew up and lived all his life until he was forced to evacuate. "After 12 years, I can finally return to my life here," he told NHK television. "The disaster hit when I was just starting my retirement life, so I'm starting all over again."

Ono, who learned indigo and vegetable dying while evacuating, wants to open a workshop to serve as a meeting place for people. "I hope more people come and visit."

At the ceremony, Kishida pledged to keep working to reopen all no-go zones.

"The lifting of the evacuation is by no means a final goal, but the start of the recovery," Kishida said.

The 2011 disaster caused massive amounts of radiation to leak from the plant, and more

than 160,000 residents had to evacuate from across Fukushima, including about 30,000 who are still unable to return home.

Tomioka is one of 12 nearby towns fully or partially designated as no-go zones. The two sections in Tomioka that reopened for the first time in 12 years represent one-fifth of the worst-hit no-go zone and were selected by the government along with several other locations in the region for intensive decontamination.

But jobs, daily necessities and infrastructure remain insufficient, making it difficult for younger people to return, and families with small children worry about possible radiation effects.

"The living environment and many other things still need to be sorted out," Tomioka Mayor Ikuo Yamamoto told reporters.

Saudis, other oil giants announce surprise production cuts

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabia and other major oil producers on Sunday announced surprise cuts totaling up to 1.15 million barrels per day from May until the end of the year, a move that could raise prices worldwide.

Higher oil prices would help fill Russian President Vladimir Putin's coffers as his country wages war on Ukraine and force Americans and others to pay even more at the pump amid worldwide inflation.

It was also likely to further strain ties with the United States, which has called on Saudi Arabia and other allies to increase production as it tries to bring prices down and squeeze Russia's finances.

The production cuts alone could push U.S. gasoline prices up by roughly 26 cents per gallon, in addition to the usual increase that comes when refineries change the gasoline blend during the summer driving season, said Kevin Book, managing director of Clear-

view Energy Partners LLC. The Energy Department calculates the seasonal increase at an average of 32 cents per gallon, Book said.

So with an average U.S. price now at roughly \$3.50 per gallon of regular, according to AAA, that could mean gasoline over \$4 per gallon during the summer.

However, Book said there are a number of complex variables in oil and gas prices. The size of each country's production cut depends on the baseline production number it is using, so the cut might not be 1.15 million. It also could take much of the year for the cuts to take effect. Demand could fall if the U.S. enters a recession caused by the banking crisis. But it also could increase during the summer as more people travel.

Even though the production cut is only about 1% of the roughly 100 million barrels of oil the world uses per day, the impact on prices could be big, Book said.

"It's a big deal because of the way oil prices work," he said. "You are in a market that is relatively balanced. You take a small amount away, depending on what demand does, you could have a very significant price response."

Saudi Arabia announced the biggest cut among OPEC members at 500,000 barrels per day. The cuts are in addition to a reduction announced last October that infuriated the Biden administration.

The Saudi Energy Ministry described the move as a "precautionary measure" aimed at stabilizing the oil market. The cuts represent less than 5% of Saudi Arabia's average production of 11.5 million barrels per day in 2022.

Iraq said it would reduce production by 211,000 barrels per day, the United Arab Emirates by 144,000, Kuwait by 128,000, Kazakhstan by 78,000, Algeria by 48,000 and Oman by 40,000. The announcements were carried by each country's state media.

Nation

Trump faces setbacks in other probes as NY case proceeds

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President Donald Trump faces the most urgent legal challenge of his life this week in New York, where he's set to be arraigned Tuesday on charges arising from hush money payments during his 2016 campaign.

But as much of the attention will be on the courthouse in lower Manhattan, investigations from Atlanta to Washington will press forward, underscoring the broad range of peril he confronts as he seeks to reclaim the presidency.

The vulnerability Trump faces in Washington alone has become clear over the past month, as judges in a succession of sealed rulings have turned aside the Trump team's efforts to block grand jury testimony—including from his own lawyer and his former vice president—from witnesses who were, or still are, close to him and who could conceivably offer direct insight into key events.

The rulings directing advisers and aides to testify don't suggest that the Justice Department is close to bringing criminal charges, nor do they guarantee that prosecutors can secure testimony valuable to a potential prosecution. But they're nonetheless

Immigration reform stalled decade after Gang of 8's big push

MIAMI (AP)—Ten years ago this month, Sen. Chuck Schumer declared, "We all know that our immigration system is broken, and it's time to get to work on fixing it." Sen. John McCain quoted Winston Churchill. But it was Lindsey Graham who offered the boldest prediction.

"I think 2013 is the year of immigration reform," the South Carolina Republican said.

It wasn't. And neither has any year since those "Gang of Eight" senators from both parties gathered in a Washington auditorium to offer hopeful pronouncements. In fact, today's political landscape has shifted so dramatically that immigrant advocates and top architects of key policies over the years fear that any hope of an immigration overhaul seems further away than ever.

Many Republicans now see calling for zero tolerance on the border as a way to animate their base supporters. Democrats have spent the last decade vacillating between stiffer border restrictions and efforts to soften and humanize immigration policy—exposing deep rifts on how best to address broader problems.

"There are big questions



Former President Donald Trump speaks at Mar-a-lago on Election Day, Nov. 8, 2022, in Palm Beach, Fla. Trump faces his most urgent legal challenge in New York, where he's set to be arraigned this week on charges arising from hush money payments during his 2016 campaign.

a key, closed-door win for the government as it investigates whether classified documents were criminally mishandled at Trump's Florida home and the possible obstruction of that probe, as well as efforts by Trump and his allies to undo the results of the 2020 presidential election.

"I do think when you're talking about an attempted insurrection and the kinds of issues that we're talking

about whether or not anything in the immigration family—anything at all—has the votes to pass," said Cecilia Muñoz, who served as President Barack Obama's top immigration adviser and was a senior member of Joe Biden's transition team before he entered the White House.

The last extensive package came under President Ronald Reagan in 1986, and President George H.W. Bush signed a more limited effort four years later. That means federal agents guarding the border today with tools like drones and artificial intelligence are enforcing laws written back when cellphones and the internet were novelties. Laying the problem bare in the deadliest of terms was a fire last month at a detention center on the Mexican side of the border that killed 39 migrants.

Congress came the closest to a breakthrough on immigration in 2013 with the Gang of Eight, which included Schumer, a New York Democrat who is now Senate majority leader, and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla. Their proposal cleared the Senate that June and sought a pathway to citizenship for millions of people in the country illegally

about there, there's going to be a lot of arguments on DOJ's side" to get the testimony, said Randall Eliason, a former federal prosecutor and a George Washington University law professor.

Meanwhile, the district attorney in Atlanta is continuing to investigate attempts by Trump and his allies to undo his election loss in Georgia. A special grand jury in February said

and expanded work visas while tightening border security and mandating that employers verify workers' legal status.

Democrats cheered a modernized approach to immigration. Republicans were looking for goodwill within the Latino community after Obama enjoyed such strong support from Hispanic voters while being re-elected in 2012.

Prominent supporters of the proposal were as diverse as the powerful AFL-CIO labor union and the pro-business U.S. Chamber of Commerce. There was more momentum than there had been for large immigration changes that fizzled in 2006 and 2007 under President George W. Bush.

Still, Republican House Speaker John Boehner gauged support for the Gang of Eight bill in the GOP-controlled chamber in January 2014 and said too many lawmakers distrusted the Obama administration. By that summer, the bill was dead.

Obama then created a program protecting from deportation migrants brought illegally to the U.S. as children. The Supreme Court has previously upheld it, but the court's relatively recent 6-3 conservative majority could pose long-term threats.

it believed "one or more witnesses" committed perjury and urged local prosecutors to bring charges.

The former president never testified before the special grand jury, mean-

Police reforms tested in city where officer killed Black man

By COREY WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Rev. James Stokes remembers Grand Rapids following the slaying of George Floyd, when demonstrations devolved into rioting that left businesses damaged and scores of people arrested.

Stokes and other leaders in the western Michigan city desperately wanted to avoid a similar outbreak of violence when a white Grand Rapids police officer fatally shot Patrick Lyoya, a Black motorist, last April. After video of that shooting was publicly released, outrage in the community grew, and some feared a violent response. But the protests—while loud and angry—were peaceful. No buildings were burned. No shops were looted.

City leaders say policing reforms and outreach to Grand Rapids' Black community, including the clergy, helped to keep the peace after Lyoya's slaying. Others believe the reform efforts have been slow and their impact superficial at best.

"We knew what potentially could have happened," said Stokes, pastor of New Life Tabernacle church. "As pastors, we got out in front of it right away, talking to our congregations, holding press conferences. The world was watching and everybody understood Grand Rapids had to get this right."

ing he is not among those who could have perjured themselves. But the report doesn't foreclose the possibility of other charges, and the case still poses particular challenges for Trump, in part because his actions in Georgia were so public.

Overall, the number of sealed disputes over the scope of grand jury testimony is unusual but perhaps befitting for hugely consequential probes like one concerning a former president. It also stands in contrast to the last special counsel investigation involving Trump, when he was president and when Robert Mueller and his team of prosecutors sought to determine whether Trump's 2016 campaign had colluded with Russia to tip the election.

In that probe, a lawyer inside the White House, Ty Cobb, facilitated voluntary interviews of White House staff—without subpoenas—in hopes that cooperation

Grand Rapids police have a history of heavy-handed encounters with Black people, who account for 18% of the city's population. Stokes said no one has forgotten how officers detained five Black youths at gunpoint in 2017 and, about 16 months later, officers stopped and pointed guns at three Black children, including two 11-year-olds—both prompted by reports of Black kids with guns.

The killing in 2020 of Floyd, a Black man, by a white Minneapolis police officer, touched off demonstrations and riots against racist policing across the U.S., including in Grand Rapids, where more than 100 businesses were damaged, seven police vehicles were set on fire and the mayor declared a civil emergency.

Then, last April 4, Grand Rapids officer Christopher Schurr pulled over Lyoya, a 26-year-old from Nigeria, ostensibly because the license tags on his car didn't match the vehicle. When Schurr asked for his license, Lyoya ran, but Schurr caught him and the two wrestled on the ground.

Schurr's bodycam footage appears to show Lyoya reaching for the officer's Taser. They tussle until Schurr fires one shot into the back of Lyoya's head. A passenger in Lyoya's car filmed the shoot-

would hasten the investigation toward conclusion.

"If I could figure out a way to cooperate and still preserve executive privilege, it would speed things up, which in my judgment ... was imperative to the president and to the country," Cobb said in a recent interview. "We were able to accelerate getting them all of the information."

Trump in that investigation was protected by the power of his office and by Justice Department legal opinions that say a sitting president cannot be indicted. No longer president, Trump has lost that shield, raising the stakes of his criminal exposure. And as prosecutors have sought to question people close to him—whether to better understand Trump's state of mind and possible defenses, or to gather potentially damaging testimony—Trump's lawyers have repeatedly objected, often in vain.

ing with his cellphone.

There was collective anger and grief from a "vast majority of our community" following Lyoya's death, said City Commissioner Kelsey Perdue, who is Black. She said change isn't coming quickly enough.

"Folks are losing a bit of patience," Perdue said. "When you have tragedy strike, it always is kind of a wake-up call that do we have enough in place to prevent this from happening again?"

Schurr was fired last year and charged with second-degree murder. His trial is scheduled to start in October.

"It feels like with law enforcement and policing, our country and community continually takes two steps forward with reform and then steps backward with use-of-force incidents," said Mark Washington, who is Black and was hired in 2018 as Grand Rapids city manager.

Public anger over the Grand Rapids police interactions with the Black youths in 2017 and 2018 led to more officer training and the introduction of a youth interaction policy. Washington developed the city's Office of Oversight and Public Accountability in 2019 to liaise between law enforcement and residents. The city rolled out a program that puts Black pastors with officers in patrol cars to help deescalate volatile situations in their neighborhoods.

Overdrive

'23 Nissan Altima conquers commuter needs and wants

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

Price, price and price!

In Grasso's Garage this week, Nissan is back with its ever-popular Altima. Our tester, the 2023 Altima SR 2.0 VC Turbo offered front wheel drive capabilities and an array of interior features fit for every driver.

The new Altima arrives at an opportune time. Consumers have written to me over the past few months inquiring about commuter vehicles and complaining about unrealistic prices in this inflated vehicle market. At a base price below \$35,000, the Altima with the SR package offers bang for the buck that the auto market needs.

"The new Altima possesses a sporting ethos with tremendous visual punch from its aggressive lines, combined with thoughtful details to play in the field of premium products. The design has a great balance of luxury and sport," mentions David Woodhouse, vice president of design at Nissan Design America.

In the powertrain department, we recognize a 2.0-liter variable compression turbo inline 4-cylinder engine powering 236 horsepower with 267 pound-feet of torque. A Xtronic CVT transmission was present, which was nice but was noisy at times when quick acceleration was needed.

On the interior, the Altima was nice and sleek but very basic, which is great in today's market. A 12.3-inch HD col-



MARC GRASSO/BOSTON HERALD/TNS
The 2023 Nissan Altima.

NUTS & BOLTS

■ MSRP: \$34,990
■ MPG: 25 city / 34 highway / 29.2 as tested
■ As Tested: \$37,060

or touch-screen display was simple and easy to use. It has all the normal accouterments in today's automobile market, such as Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Alexa Built-in, Wi-Fi Hotspot, SiriusXM, Bluetooth, wireless charging pad, Bose Audio system with 9-speaker system.

Exterior-wise, riding on 19-inch aluminum alloy wheels, the Altima came standard with a power sunroof. Aesthetically correct, the Altima has great curvatures and an array of safety features, all of which are standard.

The exterior premium paint, Gray Sky Pearl, which is like a white-gray mix and adds a tint of lilac, when clean, is most likely the nicest color in Grasso's Garage to date! Great job, Nissan, in keeping your consumers happy and delivering exactly what they want in a commuter/family sedan.

Gender equality: coming to a Formula One racing team soon?

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP)—Taking a break in the paddock after watching Max Verstappen during a practice session Saturday at the Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne teenager Kaitlyn Bourne was loving her day at the track.

The 17-year-old Bourne, who was wearing a clear plastic poncho over a Red Bull sweater on a wintry day at Albert Park, is a massive fan of Australian Formula One driver Daniel Ricciardo, who is sitting out this season.

But Bourne, who comes

from a motorsport-loving family and watches every Grand Prix race, hopes that one day she will have the chance to support a female F1 driver.

"It is still a very male dominated sport, so it would be good to bring in more females. I think it could happen," she said.

There has not been a woman driver in a Formula 1 race for more than 40 years. But with estimates suggesting that 40% of current Formula 1 fans are female, the motorsport industry is making a concerted

effort to ensure that changes.

The highest-profile female driver in recent years has been Danica Patrick. The now-retired American is the most successful woman in the history of American open-wheel car racing—her victory in the 2008 Indy Japan 300 is the only win by a woman in an IndyCar Series race.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said this week in Melbourne he believes gender equality in the sport is inevitable.

"I think it is fantastic to see

the amount of girls, females, that are showing interest in Formula One now and we're seeing it at all levels," he said. "I think the interest is growing. It is appealing to more women to get involved in the sport, whether that is from an engineering basis, or across all aspects of the organization."

"As the sport does become more accessible, and we are pushing to make it more accessible, I think that is something that will naturally happen anyway."

Horner was responding

to reports that a team evenly divided between men and women from the cockpit to the executive offices was looking to enter F1 within two to three years.

Former British American Racing founder Craig Pollock told CNN last week he hoped to debut "Formula Equal" from the 2025 or 2026 season.

FIA chief executive Mohammed ben Sulayem posted on social media that he had instructed his staff to consider launching an "expressions of interest" process for prospective teams.

Check engine light on for years

Q : I never thought I'd be writing you with an issue—but here I go. I own a 2011 Suburban. The check engine light has been on for more than 3 years. The issue (code) identifies it as an "oil pressure sensor" fault. I can clear the code, turning off the check engine light, only to have it come back on the next day. Two years ago, when my emissions test was due, it cost me a small fortune and five trips back and forth to the mechanic to get the check engine light off long enough for me to successfully pass the emissions test. Fast forward to today. My emissions test is due again and I don't have it in me to jump through the hoops. Any suggestions to get through the emissions test?

R.P., Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

A: You will continue to behave like a trained terrier unless you replace the oil pressure (OP) switch. The bad news is, because of its location, it is not a simple job, probably costing several hundred bucks. But it will be done once and for all. Replacing the switch is probably less painful than doing dumb dog tricks.

Q: I took my Hyundai Sonata to a dealership for service and was told that the mice had chewed the engine wire harness and it had to be replaced. The cost is over \$6,000. They said that soy is used on the wires and mice love soy. I asked if it could be replaced with a product that does not use soy and they said no. They are going to replace it with the same wire harness product. I did not put the mouse in there and did not put soy in there, so why should I have to pay to get the same soy product? Is this fair?

A.C., Hartford, Connecticut

A: It doesn't seem fair, but you may get good news if you have

comprehensive insurance coverage. In most cases you may only have to pay the deductible amount.

Q: We often notice my husband's 2014 Accord trunk is open. It's not easy to detect and we don't believe he is hitting the fob as frequently as we find it open. Is this a Honda issue? How can this be resolved? Any help would be appreciated.

P.S., Orland Park, Illinois

A: I have had other Honda owners complain of the same thing, but I have not found a pattern failure with any components. The most probable cause is your pocket of purse. Something may rub against the button on the key fob. Loose change, for the few who still carry it, or a penknife could be the culprit.

Q: We drive a 2014 Subaru Forester with about 75,000 miles on it. We live in Chicago. We typically buy 87 octane gas at Costco and the MPG calculator has been hovering around 26-27 for the past several years. This past summer we started taking occasional weekend car trips around the Midwest and I have noticed that every time we buy gas in Michigan or Wisconsin the average MPG read-out on the highway jumps from around 27 to 33, 35 or even higher! I know that fuel sold in the Chicago metro area is a special mix created to reduce air pollution, but would that, alone, account for such a big difference?

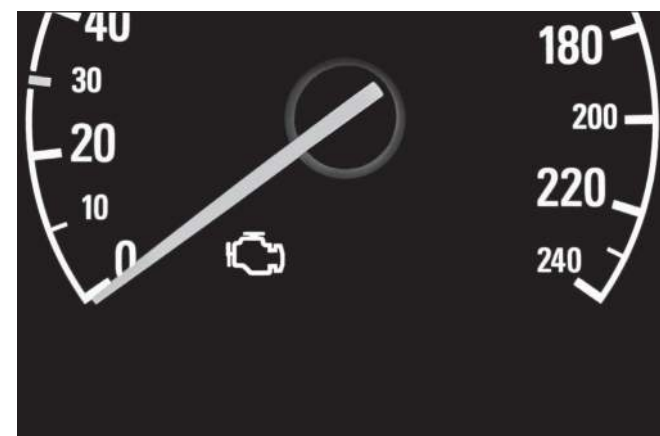
J.C., Chicago

A: You may be buying gasoline that is not laced with ethanol. I checked the pure-gas.org website and found many towns in Wisconsin that serve alcohol-free gasoline. Ethanol typically reduces fuel economy about 3% to 5%. Highway driving also helps.

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Problems with an oil pressure switch can continue to trigger your car's check engine light if left ignored.

Life & Style

‘Dungeons & Dragons’ opens with \$38.5M, takes down John Wick

NEW YORK (AP)—Riding terrific reviews and a strong word-of-mouth, the role playing game adaptation “Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves” opened with \$38.5 million in U.S. and Canadian movie theaters over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, stealing the top box-office perch from “John Wick: Chapter 4.”

The Paramount Pictures and eOne release appealed to more moviegoers than many expected a film based on a notoriously niche table top game to interest. “Game Night” directors Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley turned in a rollicking comic action-adventure, with a cast including Chris Pine, Michelle Rodriguez, Regé-Jean Page and Hugh Grant, that’s bringing in ticket buyers less familiar with “D&D.” Audiences gave “Honor Among Thieves,”



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Sophia Lillis, Justice Smith, Chris Pine and Michelle Rodriguez in a scene from “Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves.”

which launched with a raucous opening-night premiere at SXSW, an A- CinemaScore. It scored 91% fresh on Rotten

Tomatoes.

“We know how good our movie is,” said Chris Aronson, distribution chief for Para-

mount. “I know it’s been said before, but I think opening to \$38-39 million is just the start. These kind of exits polls trans-

late to playability.”

“Dungeons & Dragons” was also a big roll of the dice. The film, co-produced and co-financed by Paramount with eOne, which is owned by Hasbro, cost \$150 million to make. With a production cost like that, “Dungeons & Dragons” will be looking for sustained sales through April and similar success overseas to potentially kickstart a new franchise. It launched internationally with \$33 million.

“The challenge with this film is convincing everyone that this film is for you,” said Aronson. “Jonathan and John, these guys are really talented and great collaborators. We’re going to work more with them. Hopefully, this will be the start of a franchise.”

“John Wick: Chapter 4,”

which launched last weekend with a franchise-best \$73.5 million, slid to second place in its second weekend with \$28.2 million. While a sizeable dip, the assassin action film, starring Keanu Reeves, has already accrued \$122.8 million domestically and, after adding another \$35 million internationally over the weekend, \$245 million worldwide. Lionsgate has no shortage of plans for further expansion in the franchise.

Along with “John Wick: Chapter 4,” “Creed III” and “Scream VI,” “Dungeons & Dragons” adds to a string of well-received March releases that have surpassed box-office expectations and scored well with audiences. It’s a streak that Universal Pictures’ “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” will look to continue next weekend.

“While it may not be the highest grossing March ever, this is one of the best months of March for the industry in its history, coming off of three years of a pandemic-challenged marketplace,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore. “March is not the summer, but it’s sure felt like the summer, with hit after hit.”

Those film have helped push the 2023 box office well ahead of last year’s pace, up 28.7%, according to David A. Gross, who runs Franchise Entertainment Research. Still, overall ticket sales aren’t yet up to pre-pandemic levels, trailing the 2017-2019 average by 28.8%.

GLAAD Media Awards honor Bad Bunny, Christina Aguilera

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The 34th GLAAD Media Awards featured a surprise Jennifer Coolidge appearance, honors for Bad Bunny and Christina Aguilera and, of course, jokes about Donald Trump’s indictment—the news of which broke just hours before Thursday’s show.

Coolidge was greeted with a standing ovation as she opened the show at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California. The star of “The White Lotus” was later surprised herself when her “Best in Show” co-star Jane Lynch appeared

onstage beside her.

The GLAAD Media Awards show, intended to honor “fair, accurate and inclusive representation of LGBTQ individuals and issues,” will land on Hulu on April 12. The host, comedian Margaret Cho, cheered the former president’s indictment.

“What a wonderful way to celebrate that,” Cho said on the red carpet before the event. “I think it’s just so incredible. I never thought I would see it happen. I’m so glad, too. And I can’t wait to see how it goes down.”

Christina Aguilera was

presented with the Advocate for Change award by Club Q survivor Michael Anderson, a bartender at the popular Colorado Springs nightclub the night of the deadly shooting in November 2022. He later made headlines after quoting Aguilera’s lyrics when he testified before the U.S. House Oversight Committee on violence against the LGBTQ+ community.

On Thursday, Anderson quoted Aguilera’s lyrics once again during his introduction of the pop star.

The show also paid tribute

to the late Leslie Jordan with a performance from country music star Orville Peck. Peck’s performance was introduced by actor Cheyenne Jackson, who reminisced about Jordan’s time on the set of “American Horror Story.”

Cheers erupted when Ricky Martin took the stage to present Bad Bunny with the Vanguard Award for his LGBTQ+ allyship. The reggaeton artist asked the crowd in English if he could give his acceptance speech in Spanish, which was met with an enthusiastic “yes” from the crowd.

Woman has held MIL’s secret for 20 years

DEAR ABBY: About 20 years ago, my mother-in-law confided something shocking to me. Some background: My husband has two sisters. One is a year older and looks just like him. They both resemble their dad. The younger one looks nothing like the other two or their dad.

My MIL told me she and her husband stopped having sex after my husband was born. When I asked, “What about the younger sister?” she said she made a “mistake” with someone. We talked, and I suggested how important it was to tell the kids about this, but she never did. She always told people the younger one looked so different because she was so many years younger than the other two.

Both of my in-laws have passed away now. Why did she tell me this? She was too much of a coward to tell her kids. Did she think I’d tell them? Knowing this really bothers me, but I still can’t bring myself to tell them. It would change their lives and crush them. Any advice would help so much.

WISH I DIDN’T KNOW

DEAR WISH: Your sister-in-law deserves to know the truth. Tell her privately, in circumstances where you can talk this through. Explain that you have kept this secret because it was her mother’s wish, and you don’t plan on sharing the information with anyone else.

She may have quietly wondered for years why she didn’t

resemble the rest of the family. She may or may not wish to tell her siblings, but she should be free to handle this any way she chooses. Because you are all mature adults, this information should not crush them.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior woman who never married or had children. I met a senior man, “Warren,” on an online dating site, and we have been dating for a year and a half. It’s a platonic relationship; we go out twice a week. I have slept over but always in separate bedrooms. We are good friends.

My sister is selling her house. I have lived with her for 32 years and I pay rent. She wants me to move out in a year. I’m on Social Security and can’t afford an apartment, and government aid is not promising. Warren asked me to move in with him to help each other out. He will rent me a bedroom. My sister and a friend of mine are against it. Their concern is he wants a live-in maid, and if it doesn’t work out, where would I go?

Having no other choice, I’m seriously thinking of moving in with Warren. I really like him. He’s a very nice companion and treats me well. Should I listen to my sister and friend and try harder to find a place to live?

IN LIMBO IN FLORIDA

DEAR IN LIMBO: Talk to Warren and find out what, if anything, he will need from you besides rent if you take him up on his offer. You might want to draw up an agreement

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



with him in writing so there are no misunderstandings later.

You didn’t mention if the rent you will be paying is as high as what you have been paying your sister. If it isn’t, consider banking the difference so you will have a little more independence if things don’t work out. From what you have told me, the arrangement you are considering could be rewarding for everyone involved.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

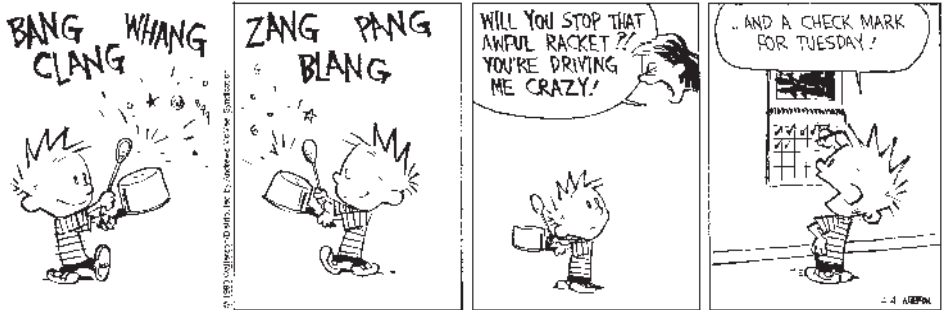
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

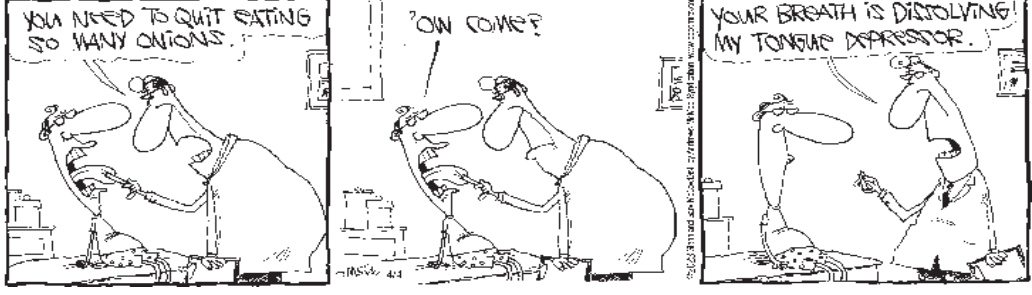


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Tavern order
- 5 Berliner's cry
- 8 Whirled
- 12 Taj Mahal city
- 13 WNBA star — Bird
- 14 Mexican money
- 15 Arm of the Atlantic
- 17 Endure
- 18 Charged bit
- 19 Composer Shostakovich
- 21 Simon of Duran
- 24 "Shoot"
- 25 Frozen desserts
- 26 Flashing Broadway light
- 30 Miner's find
- 31 Staggers
- 32 Pair
- 33 Informal "That's that"

DOWN

- 35 Carrots' mates
- 36 Envelope abbr.
- 37 "Fast Car" singer
- 38 "Not so!"
- 41 "Do — say!"
- 42 Thailand, once
- 43 Encouragement from a tennis coach
- 48 Diminutive suffix
- 49 Guitar's kin
- 50 Like ganders
- 51 Homeowner's document
- 52 Capita lead-in
- 53 Santa's ride
- 1 Prohibit
- 2 Swelled head
- 3 Goof up
- 4 Pro- portions
- 5 Org.
- 6 Pool stick
- 7 Winter woe
- 8 Divides
- 9 Bog fuel
- 10 Cold War initials
- 11 Terse denial
- 16 Sweetie
- 20 Supplies with staff
- 21 Pride member
- 22 Off-white
- 23 Complaint
- 24 Do an usher's job
- 26 Declutter
- 27 Concept
- 28 Avocado dip, for short
- 29 Prying
- 31 Queue after Q
- 34 Grew crops
- 35 Spectrum creators
- 37 Mao — tung
- 38 Second-hand
- 39 Evening, in an ad
- 40 London gallery
- 41 Computer brand
- 44 Mamie's man
- 45 "2001" computer
- 46 Yucatan "Bravo!"
- 47 Slugger Williams

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 58; David Cross, 59; Christine Lahti, 73; Craig T. Nelson, 79.

Happy Birthday: Speed things up quickly, and you'll feel at home. Don't worry about whether others can keep up; it's OK to be first. After all, you are a pioneer. Dream about your goals, and in no time, you will manifest what you envision. Be true to yourself, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Open the door when opportunity knocks. Your numbers are 4, 11, 23, 26, 33, 41, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let decisions linger on when time is crucial. Look, analyze and make things happen that brighten your day and enhance the lives of loved ones. Use insight and experience to help others, and you'll gain perspective regarding your life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A sloppy job won't cut it; if you want to advance, give your all and promote what you achieve. It's up to you to do your best. Rely on your intuition, not unverified information that comes from unfamiliar sources. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be fooled by fictitious information. Go directly to the source to avoid getting caught in someone's lies or scams. Do your research, ask questions and focus on what's best for you. Create opportunities instead of waiting for a miracle. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your eagerness will require you to hone your skills to fit the application to which you want to apply them. Don't complicate matters; a one-step solution will have just as

profound of an effect. Trust in what you know and do best. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful; what you say and do might influence your position or reputation. Keep your plans simple and look for opportunities for personal and professional growth. A place you find special will turn into a good thinking space. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the initiative and try something new. The people you encounter will offer interesting thoughts that encourage you to speed up the process of achieving success. It's up to you to take what's rightfully yours. Update your image and demonstrate your skills. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay attention to what's happening at home. Understanding the dynamics of a situation and the people involved will help you stifle difficulties before they become hard to manage. Stick to basics and don't overreact, and everything will unfold as planned. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Contracts, investments and putting your energy into getting the biggest bang for your buck will bring high returns. A change is in sight if you use your ingenuity to develop a formula that fits your style and budget and offers the desired results. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Choose a path that satisfies your needs. Let go of the past and stop following; leading is your thing. Look for opportunities you feel heartfelt about, and you'll meet individuals who share your concerns. Do your part and pay your dues. ****

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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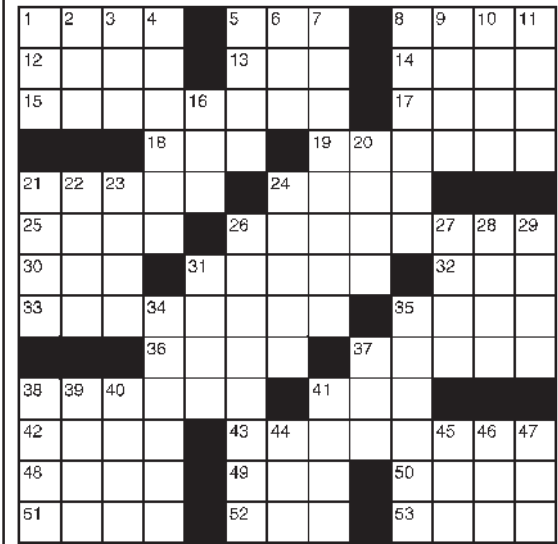
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put more time and effort into your home, family and finances. Set up your lifestyle to fit your budget and ease stress. Don't try to keep up with someone who is misleading. Set a standard of living that works for you. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Relationships will undergo changes you need to address. If you let others decide things for you, it will not be satisfactory. Specify what's important to you and make it happen. Take control instead of being controlled. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Fix up your space. The better the flow, the less stress and easier it is to manifest what you want your life to be like moving forward. Changing how you earn your living will turn out better than anticipated. ***

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, nurturing and optimistic. You are sensitive and kind.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.



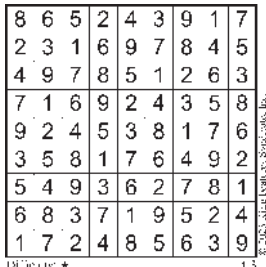
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★ 4-4
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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK Solution: 5 letters

W A L K A E P N O D O T S A M
K A N E R E N N U R D A O R E
W A T E N T K E Y S V I E W V
A N O E S O U T H V K S O I A
H I B E R T T C I C U R I L J
A G R N V R L S O T R R S L O
I H O I I I R C A E E U O M
N T U P M T L A P P R E G N W
R A T B E L C S A G D N S H U
O T E K U A C C T S A A E O N
F I I K L E S O L I A R T L T
I B S L N D U T R E S E D E A
L A O I N R Y A N A T U R E I
A H C A M P I N T O B A S I N
C O L O R A D O S L A M I N A

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Animals, Bike, California, Camp, Cholla Cactus, Climb, Colorado, Desert, Garden, Habitat, Hawk, Keys View, Landscape, Live Oak, Mastodon Peak, Mojave, Mountain, Nature, Nest, Night, Pine, Pinto Basin, Ranger, Roadrunner, Route, Ryan, Scenic, Skull Rock, South, Sparrow, Stone, Sunset, Tent, Tour, Trail, Trip, Visit, Walk, Water, Willow Hole
Yesterday's Answer: Pontificate
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

LSU wins 1st NCAA title, Mulkey's 4th, beating Clark, Iowa



DALLAS (AP)—Kim Mulkey returned home to Louisiana

wanting to bring LSU its first basketball championship. The Hall of Fame coach did just that in only her second year at the school.

Her Tigers used a record offensive performance to beat Caitlin Clark and Iowa 102-85 on Sunday and win the first basketball title, men's or women's, in school history.

"I turn around and look at the Final Four banners (in the home arena), nowhere did it say national champion," Mulkey said. "That's what I came home to do."

The victory made Mulkey the first women's coach to win national titles at two different schools. She won three at Baylor before leaving for LSU two years ago.

"Coaches coach a lifetime and this is the fourth time I've been blessed," Mulkey said. "Never in the history of LSU basketball, men or women, has (anybody) ever played for a championship."

The feisty and flamboyantly dressed Mulkey, who wore a sparkly, golden, tiger-striped outfit, now has the third-most national titles behind Geno Auriemma's 11 and Pat Summitt's eight. Mulkey has never lost in a championship game.

"My tears are tears of joy," she said. "I'm so happy for everybody back home in Louisiana."

Clark, The Associated Press national player of the year, couldn't lead the Hawkeyes to their first national title despite one of the greatest individual performances in NCAA Tournament history. The junior finished with 30 points. She scored 40 in the semifinals to knock out unbeaten South Carolina one game after she had the first 40-point triple-double in NCAA history in the Elite Eight.

The dazzling guard set the NCAA record for points in a tournament, passing the 177 that Sheryl Swoopes scored in 1993 en route to leading Texas Tech to the title. Clark ended her tournament with 191.

The 102 points broke the previous high for a championship game, surpassing the 97 that Texas scored against Southern California in 1986.

"So much for preaching defense and rebounding," Mulkey said, laughing.

Taking in the game was first lady Jill Biden, who sat in a suite above the court with tennis great Billie Jean King.

Mulkey said she hadn't met the first lady yet but told the AP that if the team was invited to the White House, she'd go.

Jasmine Carson scored 22



LSU players celebrate after the NCAA Women's Final Four championship basketball game against Iowa Sunday, April 2, 2023, in Dallas. LSU won 102-85 to win the championship.

points, Alexis Morris added 21 and Angel Reese had 15 points and 10 rebounds for LSU (34-2).

"It's no one-man show around here. When I go down, the next man is up," said Reese, who was honored as the Most Outstanding Player of

the Final Four. "Every single time, every time I go out or Alexis goes out, everybody always comes to step up."

Trailing by 21 points early in the third quarter, Iowa started hitting from the outside to go on a 15-2 run, hitting four 3-pointers and con-

verting a 3-point play to get within 65-57.

The Hawkeyes (31-7) trailed 73-64 with 1:03 left in the third quarter when Clark was called for a technical foul. She swatted the ball away on the floor after a foul call against a teammate. That

counted as a personal foul for her, her fourth of the game.

"I thought they called it very, very tight," Clark said. "Hit with a technical foul for throwing the ball under the basket — sometimes that's how things go."

Clark played the entire fourth quarter with four fouls but couldn't get the Hawkeyes much closer.

"They really played well, they were ready to go. They did a great job. I'm just so proud of my team," Iowa coach Lisa Bluder said. "This is brutal, it's really tough to walk out of that locker room today and not be able to coach Monika (Czinano) and McKenna (Warnock) again. I'm very thankful for the season we had and don't want to take anything away from that."

After Katari Poole hit a 3-pointer in front of the LSU bench, Mulkey started weeping.

"With about 1:30 to go, I couldn't hold it. I got very emotional," Mulkey said. "That's not like me, but I knew we would hold on and win this

game. I don't what it was, but I lost it. Very emotional and tears of joy. Don't know if it's the mere fact that we're doing it in my second year back home or that I am back home."

A few seconds later after another LSU basket, Reese taunted Clark by putting her hand in front of her face with a "you can't see me" gesture and then pointed to her ring finger.

As the final seconds ticked off, Mulkey and Reese hugged, setting off a wild celebration by the Tigers.

The game was tight for the first 15 minutes before Carson got hot from the outside. She made all six of her shots in the second quarter, including four 3-pointers. After one of them, she threw her hands in the air, which Mulkey mimicked on the sidelines.

For good measure, the graduate student banked in a shot just before the halftime buzzer to give the Tigers a 59-42 lead at the break. It was the most points ever in the first half of a championship game, breaking the record held by Tennessee since 1998.

Trae Young, Hawks outlast reeling Mavericks in OT, 132-130

ATLANTA (AP)—Trae Young made two free throws with 1.8 seconds remaining in overtime to give Atlanta the lead and the Hawks beat the Dallas Mavericks 132-130 on Sunday night to keep pace in the Eastern Conference play-in race.

Young was fouled by Kyrie Irving, who scored 41 points, with the game tied at 130 on what Young said was "kind of a lucky play for us and unlucky for them."

Young said he accidentally stepped on the foot of Mavericks guard Josh Green before crashing into Irving. "I just got in Kyrie's way," Young said.

Following Young's free throws, Luke Dončić, who scored 22 points, missed a last-second 3-pointer.

The Hawks (39-39) moved back into eighth place in the play-in race. Toronto and Chicago put pressure on the Hawks with wins before Atlanta's game. The Hawks have the tiebreaker advantage over Toronto.

The Hawks are only one ahead of the 10th-place Bulls for the final play-in spot in the Eastern Conference and play at Chicago on Tuesday night.

BUCKS 117, 76ERS 104

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points, 14 rebounds and six assists and Milwaukee the Philadelphia to move a step closer to the top playoff seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Bucks have a two-game

lead over Boston with four games left. Boston won the season series with Milwaukee and has the tiebreaker. Philadelphia is third in the East.

KNICKS 118, WIZARDS 109

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson and Quentin Grimes each scored 27 points and New York beat Washington to wrap up a playoff berth.

Immanuel Quickley added 22 points and Obi Toppin had 21 for the Knicks, who won their fourth in a row and will be in the postseason for the second time in three years. They had missed the playoffs the previous seven seasons.

LAKERS 134, ROCKETS 109

HOUSTON (AP)—Anthony Davis scored 40 points, LeBron James had 18 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds to tie Jason Kidd for fourth place with his 107th triple-double and Los Angeles beat Houston.

The Lakers (40-38) moved two games over .500 and into a tie for seventh with New Orleans in the Western Conference with four games to go. Los Angeles has won six of its last seven games and owns the tiebreaker over the Pelicans.

SUNS 128, THUNDER 118

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 35 points and Phoenix held off Oklahoma City for its fifth straight victory.

Durant—once a hero in

Oklahoma City after leading the Thunder to the 2012 NBA Finals, but roundly booed nearly every time he touched the ball Sunday—scored 13 points in the fourth quarter, helping Phoenix hold the lead after Oklahoma City cut a 15-point deficit to three. The Suns are 6-0 with Durant in the lineup.

Devin Booker added 22 points and 10 assists for Phoenix, which shot 56.8% from the field to match its season high. Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 11 rebounds and Chris Paul had 16 points and eight assists.

NETS 111, JAZZ 110

NEW YORK (AP)—Mikal Bridges had 30 points and seven rebounds, helping Brooklyn beat Utah to move closer to clinching a playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 17 points and 12 assists for Brooklyn, and Cam Johnson had 18 points. The Nets won their third straight, and fourth in their past five games, opening a two-game lead over Miami for the No. 6 seed and dipping their magic number to two for the last guaranteed playoff spot in the East.

NUGGETS 112, WARRIORS 110

DENVER (AP)—Jamal Murray scored 26 points and blocked Klay Thompson's 3-point attempt in the final seconds and Denver held off Golden State.

Michael Porter Jr. had 29 points and 11 rebounds and Aaron Gordon added 13 points and 10 rebounds for short-handed Denver.

SPURS 142, KINGS 134, OT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Doug McDermott scored 22 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and San Antonio denied Sacramento a chance at clinching the Pacific Division.

After clinching their first playoff berth since 2006 on Wednesday night on the road, the Kings were hoping to wrap up their first division title in 20 years in front of their home fans but fell short against the struggling Spurs.

RAPTORS 128, HORNETS 108

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Pascal Siakam scored 36 points, Fred VanVleet added 20 points and a career-high 20 assists and Toronto beat undermanned Charlotte to secure a spot in the NBA play-in tournament.

O.G. Anunoby added 23 points for the Raptors, who clinched after Brooklyn beat Utah.

TRAIL BLAZERS 107, TIMBERWOLVES 105

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Shaedon Sharpe scored 27 points, Kevin Knox II added 19 points and short-handed Portland beat playoff-hopeful Minnesota.

CAVALIERS 115, PACERS 105

CLEVELAND (AP)—All-Star Donovan Mitchell scored 40 points, Evan Mobley had 14 points and 16 rebounds and playoff-bound Cleveland beat Indiana.

Darius Garland added 20 points and six assists for Cleveland, which reduced its magic number to one for clinching home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. The Cavaliers won for the 31st time in 40 games at home.

BULLS 128, GRIZZLIES 107

CHICAGO (AP)—Zach LaVine scored 36 points, DeMar DeRozan added 31 and Chicago beat Memphis, overcoming Ja Morant's triple-double.

The Bulls outscored the Western Conference's second-place team 75-39 over the final two quarters after trailing by 23. They dominated the Grizzlies 40-16 in the third, ending it on a 17-0 run while taking the lead.

MAGIC 128, PISTONS 102

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Paolo Banchero and Wendell Carter Jr. each 14 points and nine rebounds each before sitting out the fourth quarter in Orlando's victory over Detroit.

Jalen Suggs led Orlando with 18 points, and Cole Anthony added 17 points and six rebounds.

Killian Hayes scored 20 points for the Pistons. They lost for the 20th time in 21 games.

Stanton's 485-foot homer leads Yankees over Giants, 6-0



NEW YORK
(AP)—Every once

in a while, Giancarlo Stanton hits a ball so hard and so far that Yankees manager Aaron Boone almost is puzzled it was humanly possible.

Stanton smashed a titanic home run to center field, Aaron Judge also went deep and Jhony Brito won his brilliant major league debut as New York beat the San Francisco Giants 6-0 on Sunday.

"Yeah, G is weird. Every time he comes in after one of those, I just tell him, 'You're weird. You're different,'" Boone said.

Kyle Higashioka also homered off Ross Stripling, who served up all three long balls in his first start for San Francisco, and the Yankees took two of three in the initial series of the season.

Brito (1-0) yielded two hits—one a bunt single—over five impressive innings after needing 27 pitches to get through the first. He struck out six and walked one, showcasing a polished changeup to put away batters.

"I think he's going to be one of those frontline starters for the Yankees years to come," Giants first baseman J.D. Davis said. "Deadly fastball-changeup combo."

With projected starters Carlos Rodón, Luis Severino and Frankie Montas sidelined by injuries, the 25-year-old right-hander from the Dominican Republic won a spot in New York's rotation with a strong spring that included 5 1/3 perfect innings against Toronto his last time out.

"I thought he was fantastic," Higashioka said. "We need guys to step up, and he definitely rose to the occasion."

Brito went a combined 11-4 with a 2.96 ERA at Double-A and Triple-A last season.

"Very at ease out there," Boone said. "Just a really good performance and an important performance for us."

Stripling (0-1) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the first, but Judge lined his second home run of the season to left field in the third.

Anthony Rizzo followed with a sharp single and Stanton launched a 485-foot drive to nearly straightaway center field that soared way over the tinted restaurant windows above Monument Park. The ball even cleared the camera perch above that and landed on a pedestrian walkway in front of a bar.

Stanton lingered a bit to admire the 118-mph drive and then tossed his bat aside before rounding the bases. It was his second-longest home run since Statcast be-



New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton watches his one-run home run in the third inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants, Saturday, April 1, 2023, in New York.

gan tracking in 2015, behind a 504-foot shot at Coors Field in August 2016, and the third-longest at Yankee Stadium during that time, behind two homers by Judge in 2017 that surpassed 490 feet.

"That's cool that it's up there. I don't worry about that too much. It just put us in a good spot to win," Stanton said. "As long as it goes over the fence, that's cool with me."

RANGERS 2, PHILLIES 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Marcus Semien drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the fifth inning. Josh Jung homered and Texas completed a season-opening series sweep of defending NL champion Philadelphia.

Martin Perez (1-0) allowed one run and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings to win his season debut. Will Smith pitched a perfect ninth inning to earn his first save of the season as the Rangers got off to their first 3-0 start since 2011 — when they won their second straight AL pennant.

Bailey Falter gave up both runs by the Rangers on seven hits in 5 1/3 innings as the Phillies dropped to 0-3 for the first time since losing their first four games in 2016.

RED SOX 9, ORIOLES 5

BOSTON (AP)—Adam Duvall had three more hits, including two doubles and a two-run single to break a fifth-inning tie.

One day after Duvall went 4 for 5 with a walk-off homer, the free agent outfielder collected his sixth extra-base hit of the season. He's the first player in franchise history with six in his first three games with the team.

The Red Sox are the third team — joining the 1976 Reds and '78 Brewers — to score at least nine runs in each

of their first three games.

Tanner Houck (1-0) lasted five innings, giving up three runs, five hits and a walk while striking out five. Cole Irvin (0-1) allowed six runs and eight hits in four-plus innings.

METS 5, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP)—Kodai Senga struck out eight in his major league debut, wearing a glove with an image of a ghost and a pitchfork in reference to his "ghost forkball."

The 30-year-old right-hander allowed one run, three hits and three walks in 5 1/3 innings. His eight strikeouts tied for the fourth-most by a Japanese pitcher in an MLB debut.

Tommy Pham had three hits and three RBIs, finishing a triple shy of the cycle as the Mets won for the third time in the four-game opening series. Trevor Rogers (0-1) gave up four runs, four hits, two walks and two hit batters in 4 1/3 innings.

NATIONALS 4, BRAVES 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—MacKenzie Gore allowed one run and three hits across 5 1/3 innings in his regular-season debut for the Nationals.

Gore (1-0), a 24-year-old left-hander who was the No. 3 overall pick in the 2017 amateur draft, didn't allow a hit until there were two outs in the fourth.

Atlanta's Jared Shuster (0-1), a first-round pick in 2020, lasted 4 2/3 innings in his major league debut and allowed five runs, four hits and five walks. Dominic Smith hit a go-ahead single in a four-run first.

RAYS 5, TIGERS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Tampa Bay's Jeffrey Springs (1-0) was pulled after six hitless innings, Riley Greene got Detroit's first hit

with an infield single off Colin Poche in the seventh and the Rays completed an opening three-game sweep.

Springs struck out a career-high 12 and matched his high of six innings. Outscored 21-3 in the series, Detroit had just one runner against Springs: Nick Maton drew a two-out walk in the second.

Randy Arozarena had a fourth-inning solo homer off Joey Wentz (0-1), and Jose Siri drove in two with a single against Jason Foley during a three-run sixth.

REDS 3, PIRATES 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Graham Ashcraft (0-1) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings, giving up Brian Reynolds' homer.

Jason Vosler and TJ Friedl hit solo home runs for the Reds. Alexis Diaz pitched the ninth for his first save.

Vince Velasquez (0-1), making his Pirates debut after signing in December as a free agent, lasted 4 2/3 innings, giving up three runs and five hits.

TWINS 7, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Joey Gallo homered twice to back Joe Ryan (1-0), who gave up one run and three hits in six innings as Minnesota swept its opening series for the first time since 2017, also against Kansas City.

Gallo hit a solo homer in the sixth off Amir Garrett and a three-run drive in the seventh against Dylan Coleman for a 6-1 lead and his 16th multihomer game, his first since last June 9 for the Yankees at Minnesota.

Brad Keller (0-1) allowed two runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings. Edward Olivares homered in the second ending a 19-inning scoreless streak for the Royals, their longest starting a season.

CARDINALS 9, BLUE JAYS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Gorman hit a pair of two-run homers in his second career multihomer game, including a drive in a three-homer first that included long balls from Brendan Donovan and Alec Burleson off Chris Bassitt (0-1). Donovan also had two doubles as the Cardinals banged out 16 hits.

Bassitt, making his Blue Jays debut after signing a three-year, \$63 million deal, gave up three homers in his first 14 pitches and ended up allowing nine runs and 10 hits over 3 1/3 innings for a 24.30 ERA.

Jordan Montgomery (1-0) gave up three runs and six hits over five innings.

BREWERS 9, CUBS 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Jesse Winker had two hits and three RBIs, including a key two-run single in a five-run sixth inning.

Christian Yelich, Garrett Mitchell and Brice Turang also had two hits apiece as part of a 13-hit attack.

Eric Lauer (1-0) pitched 5 1/3 innings of two-run ball, settling down after a shaky start.

Jameson Taillon (0-1) was charged with three runs and seven hits in four innings in his Chicago debut. Patrick Wisdom hit two solo homers for Chicago.

WHITE SOX 6, ASTROS 3

HOUSTON (AP)—Luis Robert Jr. and Yoán Moncada homered, and Mike Clevinger (1-0) allowed three hits in five shutout innings.

Robert hit a solo home run in the fifth and made a spectacular sliding catch on the left-center warning track in the ninth to rob Kyle Tucker of extra bases. Moncada hit a two-run homer in the ninth as Chicago gained a four-game split of the opening series.

Luis Garcia (0-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in five-plus innings. The Astros were 3 for 14 with runners in scoring position and stranded 12 runners.

ANGELS 6, ATHLETICS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Rookie Logan O'Hoppe hit his first big league homer with a three-run drive in the fourth to break up a scoreless game, Mike Trout had a two-run shot the next inning and Shohei Ohtani connected one pitch later.

With two outs and in his 22nd at-bat, O'Hoppe drove a 1-1 fastball from Ken Waldichuk (0-1) over the wall in left-center, a 391-foot-shot

with a 101.5 mph exit velocity.

Tyler Anderson (1-0) allowed four hits, struck out four and walked two over six scoreless innings making his Angels debut after signing a three-year contract in November. He's 3-0 with a 0.48 ERA and 17 strikeouts in four career starts against the A's.

GUARDIANS 6, MARINERS 5, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP)—José Ramírez scored on a bases-loaded error by catcher Cal Raleigh in the 10th of the major leagues' first extra-inning game this season.

Cleveland's Tim Herrin, a 26-year-old left-hander, struck out all four batters he faced in his major league debut, the first pitcher to accomplish that feat since the mound was moved to its current distance in 1893, according to the Elias Sport Bureau.

Former Mariner Mike Zunino hit a three-run homer and had three hits as Cleveland came from behind three times and won three of four from the Mariners.

Enyel De Los Santos (1-0) won, Penn Murfee (0-1) lost and Trevor Stephan earned his first save.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, DODGERS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jake McCarthy drove in the tiebreaking run with a bunt single in the ninth inning to overcome Noah Syndergaard's solid first start for Los Angeles. Syndergaard gave up one run and four hits in six innings, striking out six and walking none.

Corbin Carroll stole three bases and Andrew Chafin (1-0) pitched two-third of an inning for the win.

Brusdar Graterol (0-1) couldn't come up with the bunt that broke a 1-1 tie.

Scott McGough, a 33-year-old right-hander who on Friday made his first big league appearance since 2015, got the final two outs for his first save.

PADRES 3, ROCKIES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer, Trent Grisham hit a solo drive and Seth Lugo (1-0) allowed one run and four hits over seven strong innings in his first start for his new team.

The Padres set a four-game series attendance record at Petco Park (174,915), which opened in 2004, with four consecutive sellouts to open the season.

Josh Hader earned his first save, tossing a scoreless ninth inning.

Austin Gomber (0-1) gave up four runs and three hits in six innings.

SIS wins three v-ball games in a row



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Saipan International School's Omari Joab, right, attempts to get the ball over the net as two Mt. Carmel School defenders try to block it during their opening game of the NMIVA-PSS Boys High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



The Saipan International School varsity team is off to a strong start as it has won three consecutive games in the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 played at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Geckos grabbed their most recent win last Friday against Saipan Southern High School, with a previous win against Kagman High School last Thursday, and their first

win during the season opener against Mount Carmel School last Tuesday.

The rotation of Casey Chambers, Dwight Crisostomo, Omari Joab, Dongyeon Kang, Kyle Kramer, Daniel Name, Jesus Sablan, and Will Sosa were put to the test as the Manta Rays did not go down without a fight.

In three sets, the Geckos swept the first set 21-12, with the Manta Rays turning it around in the second, 12-21. In the last set, the Geckos managed to hold onto the W, 15-8, with power plays at the net between Joab and SSHA's

hard spiker VuTheson Arachchige, but the Geckos had the upper hand in the end.

The night before, they swept KHS in two easy sets, 21-8, 21-10, as the Ayuyus were not ready for the power spikes and overhead serves of the Geckos. In the first game against the Knights, the Geckos almost fumbled their first win as the tie-breaking third set was a close score of 15-12.

In other results last Friday, all three MHS teams won their games. MHS 2 won over SIS 2, 21-15, 21-5; MHS 3 bested MCS 2, 22-20, 21-14; and their varsity team MHS 1 defeated MCS 1, 21-15, 21-11; and SSHA 2 beat Agape Christian School 2 in a close

over Double A/Vizion Insurance, 90-58, for also its first win in two tries, while keeping their opponents winless at 0-2.

The Game 81 – Ong 24, Deleon Guerrero 20, King 15, Arellano 10, Mendiola 5, Chua 3, Ferrari 2, Natividad 2.

Lakay 72 – Kim 15, Mendiola 11, Mejarito 11, Malinay 10, Poksu 8, Llave 7, Gaviola 6,

Scoring by quarters: 13-15, 33-30, 58-46, 81-72.

ing 50 years of business and community contributions to the CNMI. Fishing Tackle and YCO True Value Hardware also gave in-kind contributions.

The derby was originally set for March 25, but due to inclement weather, the SFA decided to postpone it for a week to April 1.

The SFA's 39th Saipan International Fishing Tournament is set for July 22 to 23, 2023.

Last year, the 38th Saipan International Fishing Tournament champion was *Rose 1* with a 135.1 lbs marlin.

two sets, 21-15, 21-13.

The season is on a break as school is out for Spring

Break and will resume again on Tuesday, March 11, with games scheduled between ACS 2-MHS 3; MHCS 2 versus MHS 2; MCS 1 and ACS 1; KHS 1 facing MHS 1; and

GCA 1 against SSHA 1.

The double-elimination tournament is scheduled from Thursday, April 27, to Saturday, April 29 and is subject to change.

Tony Cabrera is March winner

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



A 78-year-old retired master sergeant took command of the Fil-Taga Golfers Association March Ace of the Month Tournament last March 25 at the Coral Ocean Resort.

Tony Cabrera put younger club members to shame after drilling them with a net score of 68, which was built around a 46 in the front nine and 43 in the back nine for the 21-handicapper for a gross of 89.

The U.S. Marine Corps veteran, who first picked up the sport in 1974 in San Diego, California, said he really played well during the one-day tourney.

"I was really hitting my ball right straight into the fairway and almost 300 yards and went on the green on the third shot...In fact, I had three pars in my first nine holes. If I didn't do an eight-shot on No. 9, I would have had a better score," he said.

Cabrera added that tourists playing in the 10th hole actually stymied everyone's rhythm during the March tourney.

"On the 10th hole there were players not part of the tournament and one guy argued with me. After that



Cabrera

everyone's drive went crazy. My ball on No. 9th went down the hill but remarkably I still bogeyed. If it wasn't for that distraction I probably would've shot a gross of 86 or 87," he said.

It was a fine day nonetheless, according to Cabrera, as the last time he shot in the 80s was 30 years ago in 1993.

"I'm very thankful to be able to play golf and play like my teammates. They always ask me what's my trick or what possesses me to play golf at the age of 78. I tell them I just get lucky sometimes," he said.

Cabrera attributed his success in the gentleman's sport to still being a very active person despite being in his late 70s. He said he still loves to cook, bake, and work on the yard, as he still plants and even uproots *tan-*

gan-tangan with his trusty Japanese saw.

"I feel like I can still hang with the young guys. Leo [Ganacias] asked me on the course because I outdove everyone 'Tony do you mind if I ask you how old you are and could you still hit your ball that straight?'"

Cabrera also dedicated his monthly plum to his parents.

"The way that I was brought up by my parents made me very disciplined throughout my life. I've been pretty good at managing my life," said the third oldest of eight siblings.

Cabrera is married to Rita Cruz Cabrera and the couple has five children with four of them living in Washington, D.C. The youngest lives with them in their lovely home in As Matuis.

Bert Suda and Roland Merar came in second and third with an identical net score of 73 after Cabrera. However, the former edged the latter via a scorecard tiebreaker. Suda had a gross of 92 (47-45), while Merar had a gross of 83 (40-43).

A total of 19 players took part in the Fil-Taga March tourney.

In the par 3 competition, Dan Ganacias, Freddie Cataluna, Albert Pajarilaga, and Mike Cruz came out on top.

THE

From Page 20

Susan's Catering notched its first win of the season in the open division after beating K2 Ballerz, 102-93. Susan's Catering thus improved its record to 1-3, while K2 Ballerz dropped to 1-2.

In the masters division the same evening, Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific ran roughshod

MONSTER

From Page 20

SFA president Tony Scragg said about the wahoo, "It set a new record, not just for the mahi [derby] but for the international fishing derby as well—we haven't seen a wahoo that big, so it's definitely a record."

"Today's derby was fantastic. The mahi and wahoo were biting," said Scragg about the derby.

Sponsors of the derby were MarPac and Budweiser and Tan Holdings—both celebrat-

TEAM

From Page 20

points off the scoreboard.

Pangelinan and Kaia Travilla led Team Marianas with 11 points each, while Maddie Aleagne added 10. Nicole Pineda led UOG with 8 points, while Crystal Diaz and Lovely Nilooban added 7 points each.

Team Marianas went 1-2 in the Friendship Games. UOG has lost both games against Team Marianas in the 2022 and 2023 Friendship Games.

UOG Tritons 82, Team Marianas Men 76

The University of Guam Men's Basketball Team defeated Team Marianas in the final contest of the Friendship Games at the UOG Calvo Field House on Sunday afternoon, 82-76, in a back-and-forth game.

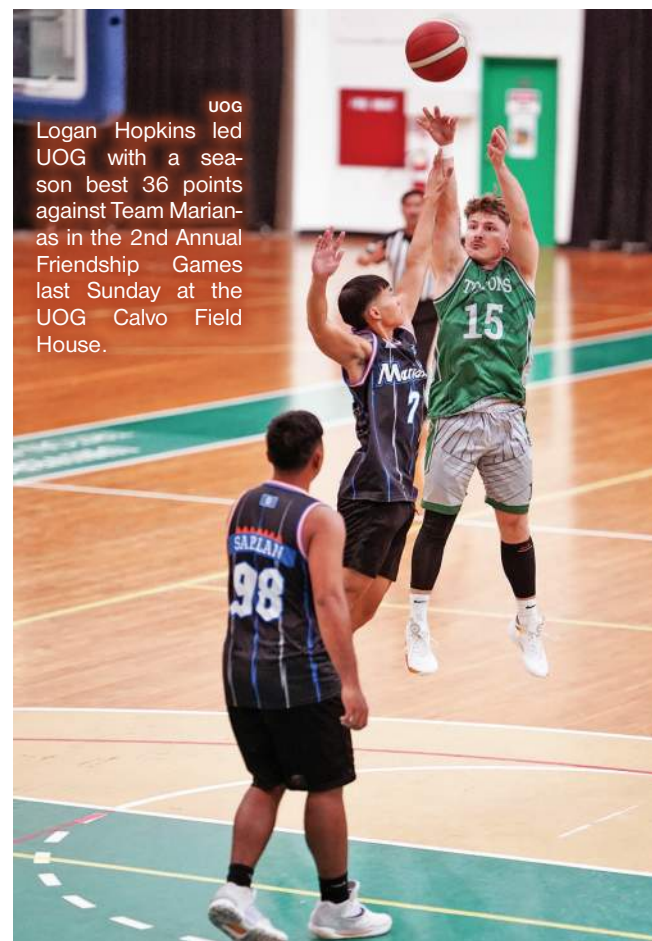
Team Marianas led 23-22 after the first quarter with Logan Hopkins scor-

ing three 3-pointers to keep UOG within a point of the CNMI team. Team Marianas led, 45-43, at halftime as the game remained nip and tuck during the entire first half as Hopkins also scored 11 points in the second quarter to lead UOG.

The Tritons took the lead at the end of the third quarter, 62-61, and pushed their lead to 10 points toward the end of the fourth period with Hopkins sealing the deal by hitting two late threes and holding on to win, 82-76.

Hopkins led UOG with 36 points for the game with seven 3-point shots. Amram Yobei added 15 and Isaac Snively scored 11 for the Tritons. Coby Santos led Team Marianas with 25 points and Eli Garcia added 11.

Team Marianas finished the Friendship Games 1-2. UOG has defeated Team Marianas twice in the Friendship Games in 2022 and 2023. (PR)



UOG
Logan Hopkins led UOG with a season best 36 points against Team Marianas in the 2nd Annual Friendship Games last Sunday at the UOG Calvo Field House.



LSU wins 1st NCAA title, Mulkey's 4th, beating Clark, Iowa

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Saipan Tribune Sports

SIS wins three v-ball games in a row

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

20 TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023

Monster 70.5-lb wahoo breaks record

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Elvin Masga caught a monster 70.5-lb record-breaking wahoo during the Saipan Fishermen's Association 19th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina on Saturday.

Aboard his boat the *Le'Ana Vae*, captain Masga and crew won \$2,200 in the side bet of the derby with the catch.

Le'Ana Vae was the only boat registered from Tinian during the derby.

The prize was second only to the \$2,500 first place prize that went to the biggest mahi (26.2 lbs) caught by Keith O. Torres in the 10-7.

Masga told *Saipan Tribune* after the derby, "The team of

the *Le'Ana Vae* and I are extremely happy and honored to know that we now hold the record for biggest wahoo, as well as breaking the record."

The whopping wahoo obliterated the record held by MV *Gloria* and captain John T. Sablan who caught a 54-lb wahoo in 2008 during that year's Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

See MONSTER on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Crew of the boat *Le'Ana Vae* with captain Elvin Masga, second left, pose with the monster 70.5-lb wahoo that won them the side bet \$2,200 prize in the Saipan Fishermen's Association 19th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina on Saturday.

Team Marianas Women beats UOG Tridents



Team Marianas Women's Destiny Pangelinan drives against UOG Tridents in the 2nd Annual Friendship Games last Sunday at the UOG Calvo Field House.

Team Marianas Women defeated UOG Tridents, 48-33, in the 2nd Annual Friendship Games sponsored by Triton Athletics and Field House Department last Sunday at the UOG Calvo Field House.

The Lady Tridents are represented by the University of Guam Recreation Department and are playing as a club team.

Points were hard to come by in the game for the first three quarters, as Team Marianas led 9-5 after the first quarter and 17-13 at halftime.

In the third period, Team Marianas scored 11 points to outscore UOG by 3 points and led 28-27 going into the fourth period.

UOG cut Team Marianas' lead down to 2 points early in the fourth quarter at 34-32, but Team Marianas would go on a 14-1 run to win the game, 48-33.

Destiny Pangelinan would score 9 points in the final period to lead Team Marianas to the win.

UOG would only hit 10-of-24 foul shots to leave 14

See TEAM on Page 19

The Game overcomes Lakay in open caging

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The Game leaned on the game-long brilliance of DJ Ong and the closing acumen of Greg Deleon Guerrero and Steve King to turn back Lakay, 81-72, in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Lakay actually took the initiative early on as John Mejarito and Chinese Poksu were on target in the first quarter, which they took by a deuce, 15-13.

Ong, however, found his stride in the second and with help from Deleon Guerrero pushed The Game to a 33-30 lead at the half.

The Game then put more distance between them and Lakay at the start of the second half as Ong went off, scoring

13 of his game-high 24 points in the third to give them a 58-46 spread coming into the fourth and final quarter.

Lakay made their expected rally at the start of fourth, but Deleon Guerrero and King started cooking in the fourth to seal the deal. The duo combined for 18 of The Game's 20 total points in the final 10 minutes of the contest.

Deleon Guerrero and King back-stopped Ong's 24-point performance with 20 points and 15 points, respectively, as the Game went above .500 at 2-1. Lakay, which dropped its third game in four matches, was led by the 15 points of do-it-all forward Tony Kim with Mejarito and Bryan Mendiola chipping in 11 markers each.

The first game pitting defending champion Blue Haus against A's Car Aircon was halted due to rain with the latter leading. The game will be completed at a later date.

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MARK RABAGO
The Game's DJ Ong drives against Tony Kim in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.